

Borough District of Drogheda – November 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 2nd November, 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: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services/Meetings Administrator
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer

Apologies: none

Minute No. 119/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th October, 2015, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 120/15

Matters Arising

Minute No 115/15: Cllr Flood sought an update in regard to correspondence to the NRA regarding tolls during expected works on the North Quay Water Main.

Minute No 117/15: Members sought an update regarding the Department of Transport correspondence from Pat Finn. The matter is to be revisited at a future meeting.

Minute No 115/15: Cllr. Munster acknowledged the work of staff in removing the tree as discussed at the October meeting.

Minute No. 121/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 23rd October, 2015. Members' queries in relation to the report

were addressed by the Senior Executive Officer, including issues around the HAP Scheme. Cllr. Munster proposed that we write to Minister Kelly T.D. requesting him to meet with the Borough District of Drogheda. This was seconded by Cllr. Flood.

Cllr. Smith raised the matter of Community Land Trust initiatives, and whether this approach had been explored by the Council staff. Mr. Storey advised the member that the matter had not been brought to his attention before, but he would look into it and discuss it further with the member in due course.

In regard to the Fire Station site in Drogheda, Mr. Storey advised the members that the Housing Agency, North East Housing, had been selected as the preferred partner for the provision of 14 houses on the site and the process is ongoing at the moment.

On the proposal of Cllr. Smith and seconding of Cllr. Tully it was agreed that Dr. Declan Redmond, Lecturer in Urban and Regional Planning, UCD, would be invited to attend a future Borough District meeting.

Minute No. 122/15

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly and Mr Pat Finn addressed the members queries in relation to the report dated 23rd October, 2015.

Issues addressed included proposals by the OPW regarding the new Courthouse and the size of the footprint currently being used for that building, the issue of flooding at Baltray was raised by Cllr. Tully, and the Wheaton Hall junction was raised by Cllr. Byrne.

Other issues addressed included Melrose Avenue position of road markings and the Boyne Pontoon which Cllr. Cassidy was advised would be included in the three year Capital Programme and would be before the members in due course.

Cllr. Bell requested that a briefing on the progress of the new offices at Fair Street be provided to the members as soon as practical.

In regard to the taking in charge of Termonabbey and Aston Village, in response to Cllr. Smith, Pat Finn advised that there would be a report on this matter presented at the December meeting.

Minute No. 123/15

Draft Budgetary Plan 2016

The Mayor, Cllr. Bell, welcomed the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance who outlined the Draft Budgetary Plan for 2016.

The Chief Executive in setting out the Budgetary Plan outlined to the members that the budget was much along the lines of 2015 and she was proposing in that budget to make an allocation for the Municipal Districts of €50,000. This was alongside the Road Works Programme and other expenditure that would come before the members in due course throughout the year. Members were also advised of their opportunity to adjust charges within the Municipal District, including pay parking charges which could be adjusted up or down, and any changes in the intake as a result would be deducted or added to the Municipal District Allocation.

Cllr. Callan raised the matter of the Municipal District Allocation in the East Meath Municipal District, where he said the amount was in the order of €160,000. He proposed that the Municipal District Allocation be increased and that the Chief Executive take account of this proposal in drafting her final budget. This was seconded by Cllr. Smith.

There was a discussion in regard to outstanding rates, and an explanation in relation to this was given by the Head of Finance, Ms. Bernie Woods.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance for their attendance.

Minute No. 124/15

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the following, and a minute silence was observed.

- Mrs. Irwin and family on the death of Dr. Willie Irwin.
- Mr. Dan (Bobby) McGivern, father of Sergeant Donal McGivern, Drogheda Garda Station.
- Mrs Melia and the family of Mr. Stephen Melia, former Louth GAA player
- Mrs Golden and her Children and wider family on the tragic murder of Garda Anthony Golden who was shot while on duty in the north of the county.

Minute No. 125/15

To Confirm a Date for the January Meeting

The Meetings Administrator, Mr. P. Donnelly, circulated to the members a calendar of meetings for 2016. He asked that the members consider the later date for the January meeting to facilitate the circulation of the agenda and to complete the response to the Motions and Questions.

It was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Cllr. Godfrey that the January Meeting would now be scheduled for Monday, 11th January, 2016.

Minute No. 126/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

"That Engineering Staff from the Operations or Infrastructure Directorate investigate the need for traffic calming / safety measures for the Bog Lane / Liscorrie / Rosehall road and the junction of Bog Lane and Crosslanes due to heavy traffic in the area."

REPLY:

The main issue of concern in this area is the junction of the Bog Road and Crosslanes, where the sight distance to the right on exiting the Bog Road is restricted. Any improvement in this situation would require land acquisition and accommodation works. However, due to the heavy traffic in the area, the traffic is actually self calming and this reduces the risk associated with the reduced sight distance, in line with the new design standards within the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets.

In the current financial situation, funding for such an improvement scheme would be difficult to source as we are currently focusing our expenditure on maintaining the network. Improvement works have not been carried out for a number of years.

Following a discussion on the matter, it was agreed to write to the Chief Executive of the Lourdes Hospital seeking the assistance of staff in asking them not to park in the area of Bog Lane and Crosslanes. Members also requested that the Traffic Warden team pay particular attention to this area as inappropriate parking was creating great difficulties for residents and users of the area alike.

Minute No. 127/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. O. Tully

"That this Borough District give an up to date account of the current status of the Linen Court Apt. building in Greenhills, Drogheda given that there are elements of the building that are not in accordance with the permitted plans, namely the position of vehicular entrance and the car park layout including supporting / retaining wall structures. Also, a Warning Letter Pursuant to Section 152 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) has been issued to Tuath Housing Association in relation to these matters."

REPLY:

Compliance with legislation is a matter for the developer/owner in all cases. However the Council will review the status of this development and are aware of issues in some areas. The Council have also been in correspondence with An Tuath Housing Association in this regard.

Minute No. 128/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on this Council to initiate the relevant processes to close St. Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic."

REPLY:

A proposal to close St Laurence's Gate to vehicular traffic was advertised in the local media in 2011 and submissions were sought from the public. At the request of the members a wider review of traffic management options was carried out and a report brought to a special Council meeting in May 2012. It was agreed at this meeting that further public consultations would take place. It was evident from the public consultation process that there was some way to go to get broad agreement and buy in from stakeholders on the measures required that would allow the closure of St. Laurence's Gate. Consequently a proposal for a one way system with traffic calming measures was recommended to the members and this was implemented. The issues raised during the extensive public consultations remain. It is not considered feasible to initiate the processes to close St. Laurance's Gate to vehicular traffic in the absence of a solution that is broadly acceptable to the residents, traders and the public at large.

Following a discussion on the matter it was agreed to proceed with the statutory process and public notice in relation to the proposed closing of St. Laurences Gate.

The time being 8.00 pm the Mayor concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____