

Borough District of Drogheda – April 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 4th April, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. P. Bell

Members: Cllrs: T. Byrne, K. Callan, R. Culhane, K. Flood,
F. Godfrey, P. Smith, O. Tully, J. Byrne

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, Acting Senior Executive Officer
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllrs: A. Cassidy

Minute No. 40/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. R. Culhane and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 41/16

Matters arising

- Beaulieu View- P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that the development has not formally been taken in charge as yet but that the statutory procedure will be progressed without delay.

Minute No. 42/16

Amenity Grants

Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

And Resolved.

To approve the proposed Amenity Grants for Community Groups and Residents Associations in the Drogheda Municipal District as set out in the schedule included with the Agenda.

Minute No. 43/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

During discussion on the Report issued with the Agenda the following matters were raised:

- Noted that 17 families presented as homeless during the month- in response to a query J. Lawrence, Acting Senior Executive Officer agreed to check on reasons for homeless presentation in these cases and revert to members with a response.
- Members queried if it was possible to introduce a classification system locally, where people under a certain income could be deemed as disadvantaged, similar to a Dutch Model. J. Lawrence, Acting Senior Executive Officer, agreed to investigate the matter with a view to having it subsequently tabled for discussion.
- Numbers on housing list increasing monthly an issue of major concern. Members were advised that all options are being explored including provision by the Local Authority, Approved Bodies, Developers and Expression of Interest submissions are still being examined.
- Land Bank is available within the Municipal District but it takes time to construct houses.
- Availability and cost of private rented accommodation contributing to the crisis with the view expressed that the level of Housing Assistance Payment needs to be increased for areas close to Dublin. P. Donnelly, Director of Services confirmed that the Department had been written to on foot of a Notice of Motion in this matter but the response indicated that there were no proposals to change the current rates. Members unanimously agreed that a further letter should issue to the Department expressing dissatisfaction with the current level of assistance.

Minute No. 44/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

During discussion on the Report issued with the Agenda the following matters were raised:

- Quality of materials being used was queried by members who felt that works at Greenhills and Stockwell Street, among others, were not providing the long- term solution required. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer advised that there has been a 40% reduction in funding over the last number of years which contributes to the deterioration of road surfaces as advance protection works cannot be undertaken due to lack of funds.
- Irish Water have identified the preferred contractor for the project at North Quay but have not indicated any timeframe for commencement of works. Members requested the attendance of Irish Water Representatives at a Municipal District meeting, which is also agreed that the matter would be pursued with Irish Water.
- P. Finn, Senior Engineer will provide a written report for the next meeting, on the current position of the Cycling Strategy including the formation of the committee highlighted in the Strategy which was the subject of a recent Notion of Motion.
- While a formal report will be prepared for the next meeting, P. Finn, Senior Engineer verbally updated members on the St. Mary's Abbey project confirming that works to date are temporary and that funding is being made available to complete the works which are being undertaken by the Local Authority and not the OPW
- Port Access Route- Members queried timeframe for completion of works and what plans will be in place to deal with added traffic particularly at Crosslanes area. P. Finn, Senior Engineer confirmed that the Local Authority is actively looking at the situation and, if feasible, will progress on a section by section basis.
- Policy on reinstatement of Roads following works by Utility Companies- P. Donnelly, Director of Service, advised that a road opening licence with fee applies with the level of fee currently being examined nationally.
- CFRAM Reports- Public consultations welcome but queries raised on when funding will be made available for recommended works and if interim measures will be undertaken in the meantime. P. Finn, Senior Engineer advised that preliminary details of what is proposed will be available shortly and that

discussions have been held with OPW in relation to interim measures for Drogheda.

Minute No. 45/16

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the family and friends of the following:

Mr. Joachim Bird
Mr. Vincent Confrey, Port, Togher

Members lead by the Mayor observed a minute's silence in respect of those listed.

Minute No. 46/16

Notices of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan**

"Calling on this Municipal District to request Irish Water to propose a solution to the ongoing water pressure problems experienced by households on the Newfoundwell Road"

REPLY:

Parts of Harmony Heights, College Rise, Newfoundwell Road and adjoining areas have historically sufferer from a lower than average water pressure at certain periods. This is essentially due to the elevation and the location of these estates in relation to the public water supply distribution network.

Furthermore, Drogheda's public water supply is taken from two sources, the Staleen WTP and the Rosehall WTP. The Staleen WTP is the main supply for the town. The Staleen WTP has a higher elevation (head) than the Rosehall WTP and therefore can provide a greater pressure head to the network than the Rosehall supply. However there are occurrences when the supply from the Staleen WTP is not available to serve the complete network due to maintenance reasons, bursts on the network, emergency works, reservoir levels, etc. On these occasions the supply is taken from the Rosehall WTP and therefore the pressure would be lower. Also unauthorised abstraction from the mains can also reduce water pressure. Please be advised that LCC Water Services Section intend to lay a series of pressure loggers in the vicinity in the coming weeks to establish current pressure in the area and we can get back to you with our findings. Notwithstanding that previous pressure recordings were over 1 bar. Although this is low compared to other parts of the network this pressure would be adequate to supply typical dwellings in normal circumstances. In addition, it would also be important that individual's properties check their own internal plumbing that all valves, pipework, etc are in good order and operating efficiently.

Members stressed that a significant numbers of households have been experiencing water pressure problems for years with no solution identified. Water loggers required to identify potential unauthorised abstractions which members deemed to be contributing to the problem and the provision of a proper reservoir on the northside of the town was seen as necessary to facilitate present and further development.

Minute No. 47/16

Correspondence

Members noted request from Louth Family Carers Support Group to make a presentation to members at the next Municipal District meeting. On the proposal of Cllr. T. Byrne seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane members agreed to the attendance of representatives of Louth Family Carers Support Group at the May meeting of the Drogheda Municipal District.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____