

Borough District of Drogheda – January 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 11th January, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Deputy Mayor: Cllr. R. Culhane

Members: Cllrs: T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, K. Flood, F. Godfrey,
I. Munster, P. Smith, O. Tully

Officials: P. Donnelly, Director of Services
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
B. O'Reilly, Administrative Officer
M. Murtagh, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr P. Bell (Mayor)

Minute No. 01/16

Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7th December 2015.

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Minute No. 02/16

Matters Arising

- M. Murtagh confirmed that a reminder letter had been issued to Minister Alan Kelly's office requesting a meeting in regard to the HAP Scheme, but to date no response has been received.
- Cllr. I. Munster raised the issue of the refusal to allow her Motion requesting a Director of Services for Drogheda to be listed on the agenda. The Deputy Mayor ruled the matter out of order.

Minute No. 03/16

Presentation by North & East Housing Association re. Scarlett Street Development

Members welcomed Mr. James McKevitt and Mr. Adrian King from McKevitt Architects, representing North & East Housing Association, who delivered a powerpoint

presentation on the Scarlett Street Development and who, together with Mr. Vincent Keenan, Chief Executive of North & East Housing Association, addressed issues raised by members during the subsequent discussion.

- The development is dense for half acre site but is in keeping with the Development Plan.
- The provision of a play area, while not included in the plan, can be considered during consultation.
- The need for consultation with neighbouring residents was stressed by members, and agreed by North & East Housing representatives.
- 15 units in total will be provided in the development – five family houses with the remainder apartments.
- Depending on consultation and planning requirements it is hoped to commence the development before the end of 2016.

Minute No. 04/16

Draft Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Members were advised that the draft plan was not yet available but would be circulated early next week at the latest. Members agreed to defer the item to the February agenda.

Minute No. 05/16

Borough District Allocations

On the proposal of Cllr. P. Smith, seconded by Cllr. O. Tully, members approved the proposals as circulated at the meeting.

Minute No. 06/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

During discussion on the report included with the agenda the following matters were addressed:

- The Housing Section will revert with an update on tenders for Boice Court.
- Identification of issues through sustainment packages that contribute to homelessness – P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that no specific study

was undertaken, but a Social Worker investigates each case and tenants are directed to MABS for assistance.

- 1952 people on housing list in Drogheda – new developments will make very little impact.
- Housing Section will revert to confirm how many acres the local authority owns in the Borough District that could be used for housing development.
- Application forms for adaptation works will be available in first quarter of 2016.

Minute No. 07/16

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated with the agenda and the following matters were addressed:

- Traffic flow at peak school times causing problems for nearby residential areas. The Sustainable Transport Network Plan for Drogheda has only one year left and the Travel Town Committee, which was identified as an action in the plan, has not been established.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Smith, seconded by Cllr. K. Callan, it was agreed that the committee should be set up.

Noted that the three schools on the Ballymakenny Road have met with the Gardai and Council staff and a proposal for low cost safety measures identified for the 2016 programme.

- A number of members referred to a further mudslide at the Ramparts Walkway which has resulted in its closure. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, advised that he was not aware of any recent problems but he would investigate and revert to members in the matter.
- Draft report on Obelisk Bridge received which is currently being examined with a view to seeking clarification from the consultants on a number of issues. G. Kelly advised members that he would ask Infrastructure to bring the finalised report to the February meeting of the Borough District.
- Noted comments in relation to Gaulstown Road, but G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, advised that neither budget nor facilities were available to extend the Winter Gritting Programme.

- Irish Water are advancing a tender process in relation to a number of areas in Drogheda, including Greenhills, with four areas recommended for prioritisation.
- The issue of increased illegal dumping, particularly in residential areas, was raised. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer confirmed that Litter Wardens examine contents of dumped material with a view to identifying culpability and confirmed that the local authority did use covert cameras in some instances.
- Members expressed concern at the condition of the area owned by the Port Authority including dereliction, condition of footpath and presence of bollards. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, undertook to contact the Port Authority in the matter.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, confirmed that the junction at Mell was included in the Low Cost Safety Measures Programme which has not been approved as yet. Normally approval is received by the end of February.
- G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, circulated the Draft Restoration Improvement Multi Annual Programme and asked members to consider its contents and revert with comments / suggestions within the next week. The final programme will be placed on the February agenda for approval, but it was noted that it could require amendment post approval if particular roads deteriorated significantly and became a higher priority as a result.

Minute No. 08/16

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by Cllr. I. Munster**

"That this Council commits to installing a zebra crossing, and improves pedestrian access to the pedestrian crossing by removing the ESB pole that is making the footpath too narrow for wheelchair use, beside St John of Gods Day Care Centre at Patrick Street, close to the junction with Church Street, Drogheda."

Reply:

This matter will be investigated and the introduction of a pedestrian crossing considered as part of the Road Works Programme 2016, subject to adequate funding being made available.

It was noted that Patrick Street is included in the Multi Annual Programme circulated at the meeting. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, undertook to contact the ESB in relation to the removal of the pole as part of the works.

Minute No. 09/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by Cllr. I. Munster

"That this Council will provide pedestrian access to the Boyne Business Park, where the HSE Early Intervention Centre is, through The Mill Enterprise Centre grounds. Currently there is not footpath or safe route for pedestrians to access the Boyne Business Park"

Reply:

The Mill Enterprise site is leased by the Council and the route referred to would require access through third party lands. It is not in our gift to provide pedestrian access through private lands.

Cllr. Flood sought and received approval from the members to amend the Motion as follows:

"This council will install a footpath to the Boyne Business Park, where the HSE Early Intervention Center is, from The Newtown Link Road, or liaise with the HSE, Boyne Business Park Businesses and The Mill Enterprise Center to provide funding for pedestrian access to the Boyne Business Park or contact the private land owners bordering the Boyne Business Park on the Termonfeckin Road or Newtown Link Road and seek agreement on a pedestrian route through to the Boyne Business Park. Currently there is no bus service, footpath or safe route for pedestrians to access The Boyne Business Park"

Members expressed surprise that the HSE Intervention Centre received permission when the footpath infrastructure was not in place, and proposed that businesses in the area should be contacted to see if they would cooperate with the local authority in the installation of a footpath. G. Kelly agreed to ask the Area Engineer to commence the necessary consultation in the matter.

Minute No. 10/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

"That this Borough District detail for members the number of Derelict Sites pertaining to Drogheda that are currently (2015) on the Derelict Sites Register, the current market value of each site, the amount of monies collected in levies, clarify if there are any unpaid levies and detail that said sites were registered"

REPLY:

There is one site which relates to Drogheda on the Derelict Site Register in 2015.

No. Of Derelict Sites in Drogheda:

1 Site – 108B Brookville Park, Drogheda

Current Market Value:

€55,000

Amount of Monies Collected in Levies:

Nil – Levy is due to be raised from 2016 onwards at 3% of Market Value i.e. €1,650 yearly for 5 years after which time a new valuation must be sought

Date Site went on Derelict Site Register:

22/1/2015

There are several other sites in the town, which are currently being assessed, some of which may result in their inclusion on the Derelict sites Register.

Members expressed disappointment that only one property is on the Derelict Sites Register given the number of buildings that have fallen into dereliction, with Trinity Street, Narrow West Street and Pearse Park provided as examples of problem areas.

Members were advised that Derelict Site has a very specific legal definition, but that other properties are being examined. Members requested an annual update on Derelict Sites and levies imposed, and it was agreed that the register would be brought to a future meeting for information.

Minute No. 11/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

"That this Borough District agrees to place parking bollards on both sides of the entrance to Anneville Crescent in order to eliminate illegal footpath parking in the estate"

REPLY:

Additional signage has already been erected at this location warning of the increased enforcement of the parking by-laws in the area. The Traffic Wardens attend the area regularly and would appear to be having the desired effect during the working day. Unfortunately the problem does reappear in the evenings. The local Garda have been asked to address this issue.

The erection of bollards will prevent parking on the footpaths and at the junction, but is likely to have some unintended consequences, such as,

- **Hospital visitors parking further into the estate and possibly blocking entrances**
- **We will only move the problem to the next estate and then to the next estate etc.**

Therefore it is not recommended that we erect the bollards as proposed, but instead look for increased enforcement by both the County Council and Garda.

Members acknowledged that enforcement had worked during the day, but was a failure at night time and that an engineering solution must be found to address the issue, including the cost and feasibility of installing standard bollards. Members were advised that an engineering solution would transfer the problem to nearby residential locations

but it was agreed that the matter would be further examined in terms of engineering and enforcement solutions.

Minute No. 12/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. T. Byrne

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

"That Louth County Council urgently provides public lighting and safety measures for pedestrians, joggers and cyclists at the entrance to the Roschoill, Castlewood Housing Estates, Boyne Valley Hotel and Leisure Centre on the Dublin road"

Reply:

The entrance road to Boyne Valley Hotel, Roschoill, Castlewood and Woodview housing estates is a private road, Logancourt Developers are the owners. Public lighting is provided along the Dublin Road, on the side opposite the entrance to the Boyne Valley Centre. While the junction is controlled by traffic lights, there is no dedicated pedestrian phase. The provision of a pedestrian phase would result in increased queuing on the Dublin Road and within the estates. Surveys will need to be carried out to determine if there is a warrant for a pedestrian phase.

Cllr. Byrne expressed concern for the safety of joggers, walkers and users of the leisure centre during hours of darkness, but the Senior Engineer confirmed he visited the area in darkness and that the lack of lighting is limited to within the private development.

Minute No. 13/16

Notice of Question - Cllr. T. Byrne

"When will a zebra crossing or similar safety measure be implemented at the Meadow View side of the Bryanstown Cross Route to assist parents and children walking to the 1,000 pupil school at Bryanstown, to compliment the excellent work in removing the blind corner here recently?"

REPLY:

An analysis of the pedestrian traffic movements in the area of Meadow View and Bryanstown Cross Route is necessary in order to determine the requirement for a pedestrian crossing facility. Subject to adequate funding being available in the road works budget 2016 a site survey and analysis will be scheduled.

Cllr. Byrne confirmed he was satisfied with the reply.

Minute No. 14/16

Correspondence

The correspondence circulated with the agenda was noted by the members.

Minute No. 15/16

Cllr. I. Munster again raised the issue of the refusal of her Motion onto the agenda. The Deputy Mayor again ruled the matter out of order and the meeting was advised that the matter should be raised at Corporate Policy Group and/or Protocol Committee level.

P. Donnelly, Director of Services, stressed that raising an issue not on the agenda required a suspension of Standing Orders and the matter must be of an urgent matter relevant to the Borough District. He further advised that each Municipal District is serviced by a Director of Services who liaises with the Management Team on matters relevant to the District.

The meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____