

Borough District of Drogheda – July 2016

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

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. O. Tully

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

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
Emer O’Callaghan, Senior Executive Planner
John Lawrence, A / Senior Executive Officer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. K. Callan

Minute No. 76/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th June, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Smith and seconded by Cllr. K. Flood.

Minute No. 77/16

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 78/16

Part 8 Planning Report dated 24th June 2016 in respect of 105 Houses at Rathmullen Road, Drogheda

Proposed by Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. K. Flood

The members welcomed the development of houses in the Drogheda area and queried the makeup of the type of units being constructed. J. Lawrence, A / Senior Executive Officer advised that the construction of one bedroom units is not actively pursued except for the provision of facilities for persons with disabilities.

Queries re improvement works to the junction from the Bridge of Peace onto the Rathmullen Road were addressed by P. Finn, Senior Engineer - he advised that funding needs to be identified in order to consider works at this location.

Minute No. 79/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 25th June 2016 as circulated at the meeting and J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed the following matters:

- Increase in housing assistance payments (HAP) countrywide.
- Incremental Purchase Scheme – the fact that under occupancy is a localised clause and that each case is looked at on an individual basis.
- Members welcomed the inclusion of a possible PPP scheme on lands at Ballymakenny.
- Members expressed their views that it is vital for the local authority to build new houses to meet the increased housing demand and voiced their appreciation that it is great to see the number of projects proposed and in the pipeline in the Drogheda area.
- The statutory period for inspections of rental units in the private market is eight months and the fact that this is challenging to meet with the existing resources in place.

Minute No. 80/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report dated 20th June 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and P. Donnelly, Director of Services, P. Finn, Senior Engineer and G. Kelly, Senior Engineer addressed the following matters:

- Problems with contractor re surface dressing are currently being addressed. There are 60% issues outstanding due to difficulties contacting and getting the contractor on the ground.
- Surface dressing has been pushed back due to inclement weather conditions.
- Problems with egress from Wheaton Hall are constantly in review. P. Finn advised that there is no funding in place to deal with this area at present. The Dublin Road cannot be looked at in a piecemeal fashion, it must be addressed as the whole.
- Bull Ring - sequencing of lights at the weekend to be investigated.
- P. Donnelly to revert back with an update of the local authority's future role in Drogheda Port Company.

- Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith and seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey that the Chief Executive appoint two representatives as directors of Drogheda Port Company.
- Members expressed their satisfaction that works are due to commence on the North Quay and the importance of keeping the area looking well when it comes to grass cutting around the town.

Minute No. 81/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

"Calling on this Borough District of Drogheda to develop an Age Friendly Parks Initiative that demonstrates a multistranded approach to addressing a range of parks related issues which are of particular importance to older people such as Tone Zone Outdoor Gym Equipment, Tone Zone Exercise Classes, Accessibility, Footpath & Lighting Improvement Works, Seating Improvements, and that identifies sites under the control of the Borough District where such works could be implemented"

REPLY:

The initiative and its embracement of the Age Friendly County ethos is to be welcomed and is within the adopted principals of the recently adopted Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) However there are no funding sources for such works. The Members may however wish to consider such a project for the Borough District 2016 Discretionary budget for 2016.

Members supported the motion, stating that there is a duty on the council to come up with initiatives to initiate the policies in place such as the one that Dublin City Council and Dublin City University done in partnership with multinational to fund works.

P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that there have been a number of projects that fit into this motion such as the outdoor gym along the river in partnership with Coca Cola, the bowling green and the skateboard park. If an opportunity arises with regard to funding then it will be utilised.

Minute No. 82/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

" That the Louth County Council put Safety Measures in place at Newtownstalban. This is a very dangerous road and a lot of people use it going to the Boyne Business Park".

REPLY:

The Council have prepared plans for a new link road between Newtown Link Road and to connect to existing road on third party lands through to Newtownstalaban at Boyne Business Park to provide safe, secure pedestrian and vehicular access. The costs to construct the new road is estimated at €258,000.

Council officials have met with our solicitors, they are checking the owner/receiver of third party lands adjacent to Boyne Business park entrance regarding access and taking-in-charge the road through their site. We are awaiting their findings.

When the new road is available use of the existing route should discontinue.

P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that he would be facilitating the meeting on behalf of the Chief Executive and that there is no timescale for the works. The development of the lands could be subject to the construction of part of the road being part of the planning conditions.

Minute No. 83/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

'That this Council immediately reinstate the nameplate which was removed from the residential area known Moran's Terrace.'

REPLY:

The owner of the property has removed the nameplate and does not want the sign replaced on his property. We are ordering a new street sign for erection on site and will progress works as soon as possible.

Minute No. 84/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on this Council to carry out the necessary works in relation to graffiti painted across the town and in particular on the Dublin Road. Irish Rail should be contacted to clean up the railway bridge and The ESB to paint their boxes around the town."

REPLY:

The defacement of 'any structure or other land, door, gate, window, tree, pole or post visible from a public place' is addressed by Sections 19 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997. A comprehensive survey will be undertaken by Louth County Council to identify properties and street furniture in Drogheda vandalized by

graffiti, and property owners whose property is found to be so defaced, including the ESB and Irish Rail, will be contacted in accordance with the Act in order to have the graffiti removed.

Members fully supported the motion and requested a letter to go to the Chief Superintendent to ask if they can identify the offenders from the cameras on the Dublin Road and have them prosecuted and to also contact Irish Rail and the ESB to clean up their areas.

Minute No. 85/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on this Borough District to enter talks with NAMA to determine if a suitable site/building can be identified within Drogheda to accommodate the proposed Digital Payments Hub as identified in the North East Action Plan for Jobs and to determine if funding through the NTMA Strategic Investment Fund can be obtained to invest in such site/building if identified."

REPLY:

There are a number of existing buildings within the town which were in NAMA and are now with Receivers. The Council would not be in a position to negotiate with NAMA on such properties but are assisting in resolving any planning constraints on these sites. There are some sites which have planning permission for commercial/office but development cannot proceed until an anchor tenant has been secured. The Council are continuing to working with the IDA to assist in securing FDI in the town.

Members support the motion

Minute No. 86/16

Notices of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

"That this Council take the necessary steps to install physical traffic calming measures(ramps)on straight stretch of road from Ballsgrove leading directly into Rathmullen Park in the interests of public safety"

REPLY:

The Council adopted a Traffic Calming Policy in February 2015 to regularize our approach in dealing with demands for traffic calming. When the basic criteria for a proposed scheme, as set down in the policy, have been met and funding has been made available a scheme may be considered further.

Minute No. 87/16

Notices of Question

The following Notice of Question were noted by the members:

Cllr. K. Flood

"Can Louth County Council give the dates the following estates were referred to Irish Water for Taking In Charge Reports and give an update on those reports?"

Aston Village.
Termon Abbey.
Forest Park.
Beaulieu View.

REPLY:

In regard to the developments listed, Louth County Council have not at this time referred the matter to Irish Water. There are a number of outstanding clarifications required prior to the applications for Taking in Charge been forwarded to Irish Water. In some instances the clarifications are historic in nature dating back to a time when Drogheda Borough Council were the planning and water authority. Staff from Water Service and Planning and Infrastructure and currently working to progress the issues. It is expected that the reports on same will be forward to Irish water by the end of June.

P. Donnelly, Director of Services advised that this matter was dealt with at last month's meeting and that there was no update due to staff being on leave. Additional staff have been assigned and it is hoped to issue clarification at the next meeting.

Minute No. 88/16

Votes of Sympathy

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

Stan Corrigan, father of Cllr. Edel Corrigan
Thomas (Tom) McGuinness, Hillbrook Drive, Drogheda
Michael Coyle, Townrath, Drogheda

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

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____