

Borough District of Drogheda – June 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 13th June, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. O. Tully

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

Officials: Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Catherine Duff, Senior Engineer
John Lawrence, A / Senior Executive Officer
Fiona Downes, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 67/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 68/16

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 69/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Members discussed the report dated 25th May 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer addressed the following matters:

- Rathmullan Road development - it is planned to have Part 8 planning report to the members at the next meeting and subject to their approval it will go to the Department for approval.
- HAP Inspections – There were two hundred inspections completed last year in County Louth. Sixty have been completed as at 31st May this year.

- HAP – the scheme will continue and those receiving assistance will continue to do so even though the pilot scheme is coming to an end. J. Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer advised that there was a meeting with the Department the following day and that he would update the members re outcome of meeting at a future meeting.
- There are plans to develop more lands for housing subject to Department approval such as the PPP on lands at Dunleer, lands at Ballymakenny
- Homelessness – one person in Drogheda during the recent rough sleepers count. The ‘hidden’ homeless, i.e. people sharing are not reflected in the figures.
- Boice Court phasing – the start date was pushed out due to 15 additional units being added into phase IV. This had to go back out for updated costs and had to be designed into scheme.

Minute No. 70/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report dated 17th May 2016 as circulated with the Agenda and P. Donnelly, Director of Services addressed the following matters:

- Grass cutting – existing contractor did not take up the option to extend his contract resulting in no contractor being available. A temporary contractor has been engaged and tenders are due in at the end of the week. Issues regarding quality of works are currently being addressed. Grass cutting at the Rathmullan football pitch has been addressed.
- Surface dressing will be commencing, exact timeframe not available at present and will address some of the potholes in the area.
- Cllr. K. Flood’s notice of question, minute no. 58/16 was addressed re taking in charge of estates. The outstanding works have to be dealt with before going to Irish Water. Hope to have information for the next meeting re timescales.
- Water outage – Members commended P. Donnelly and his team of outdoor workers and engineers for their excellent work and expressed their gratitude for the circulation of updates to the
- Traffic calming at Rathmullan football pitch and the fact that ramps are not always the answer to reducing speeding as the ramps can be noisy for residents living nearby. A traffic survey will be required.

Confirmation of a date for the provision of road markings at Sunday’s Gate will be issued when available.

P. Finn, Senior Engineer confirmed that Forest Park was formally taken in charge by Drogheda Borough Council but there is still a section that still has to be taken in charge by Louth County Council.

Minute No. 71/16

Items

To consider the expenditure of the Borough District allocation of €65,000 for the financial period of 2016

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

“To divide it equally between the members to distribute to various community groups, as they see fit”.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by Cllr. T. Byrne

“To oppose Cllr. K. Callan’s proposal and to do the same as last year re. using the budget for disability access improvements”.

A vote for taken, the result of which was as follows:

For the division of monies between the members – 7 votes

For pooling the funds and carrying out works re. disability access – 2 votes

It was confirmed that last year’s allocation of €20,000 for disability access has been ringfenced for these works.

Minute No. 72/16

Items

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

“To agree by resolution to hold an outdoor event in accordance with Part XVI Planning and Development Act, 2000 and Section 238 of Planning and Development Act, 2010.

The Irish Maritime Festival 2016, 9th and 10th July”.

Votes of Sympathy

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

Moira Burns

Mick Slevin

Larry Delaney

Sean Judge

Joey Maher

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

Minute No. 73/16

Items

“Presentation by Irish Water Team on the proposed programme to replace the water main at North Quay, Drogheda.”

The Irish Water Team confirmed that works would not commence prior to the Maritime Festival and that the expected start date is 11th July.

The members welcomed the start date and the following issues were discussed:

- Confirmation that works will commence at advised. Patrick Fallon of Tobins advised that there is no definitive date due to the lead time required for ordering the special pipe required for the works.
- Feasibility of placing the pipe along the river wall. P. Fallon advised that it was considered but the river wall is a designated SAC and that they would have had to demonstrate that there was no alternative option. It would have resulted in a very long and protracted process.
- Reassurance regarding provision of an uninterrupted water supply for the people of Drogheda. P. Fallon advised that most of the works would be done at night to avoid disruption.
- The need for up to date communication re progress of lack of same in the works. P. Fallon advised that Irish Water will have a Resident Engineer on site full time and that a communication plan will be put in place. P. Donnelly, Director of Services also advised that he would update members on a monthly basis.
- The level of engagement with both stakeholders and households.
- Impact of works in Newfoundwell, College Rise, Termonfeckin and Port area in terms of water supply and the varying levels of ground being covered. P. Fallon advised that pressure valves would be placed in the system which allows for fluctuations where higher pressures can be put through.
- Undertaking that Meetings Administrator will write to the toll company now that a contractor has been appointed.
- The cost of the works is approximately €500,000.
- The members thanked Irish Water for the update together with C. Duff, Senior Engineer and her team for their contribution to the project.

Minute No. 74/16

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

To suspend standing orders to finish meeting at 8.10 p.m.

Minute No. 75/16

Notices of Motion

Changes in Order of Business – to deal with Cllr. K. Callan’s notice of motion re. St. Lawrence’s Gate before conclusion of meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully

Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell

“That this Council based on the commitments given by it last November based on a motion to begin the necessary processes to enable St Lawrence’s Gate to be closed to vehicle traffic now begin the processes involving a traffic survey, plan and public consultation. As the Council are aware in the interim period the Gate has suffered further vehicle strikes and also HGV traffic is impacting on the gate and neighbouring streets. Also seeking the Council to clarify the nature and outcome of its communications with the Office of Public Works about the vehicle strikes and HGV incidents from September 2015 to the date of this meeting. ”

REPLY:

A report was prepared for a special meeting of Drogheda Borough Council on the 29th May 2012 which identified a preferred option to facilitate the closure of St. Lawrence’s Gate. The report is attached for your information. The key element of this proposal is the reversal of traffic flow along Shop Street to cater for traffic that normally came into the town centre through the Gate. In addition the signalisation of the Tholsel junction is also required.

There were objections to this proposal from various quarters and no progress was made on the matter.

In order to progress the matter, it is recommended that the following procedure is implemented,

- The Borough District adopts the proposal outlined in the report 'Review of Traffic Management Options' from May 2012**
- The preferred option is put out to public consultation in June**
- Following the public consultation a report is prepared for the Borough Council and a final decision is made on how to proceed**
- Detailed design and costing can then be carried out.**
- Funding is secured for the works**

St. Laurence's Gate is the responsibility of the OPW. As a Council we always work in cooperation with other organisations, and so when we become aware of strikes on the Gate we would, out of courtesy, inform the OPW in case they were unaware of the situation. In September 2015, the Area Engineer's office emailed the OPW to inform them of the strike. No response was received.

Addendum to response to notice of motion on St. Laurence's Gate

The OPW have confirmed that all reported strikes on the monument are investigated by their staff. None of the strikes have resulted in any structural damage to the monument. As part of their routine maintenance regime the OPW also carry out regular inspections of the monument.

The Council is in the process of providing additional signage at the Mall directing high sided vehicles away from the Gate.

The Council will bring an updated report on the traffic options and implications of each, to the members in September. This report will incorporate the work previously done including feedback from workshops and stakeholder meetings which were held together with updated traffic data from the one way system through the Gate implemented in 2013. The report will also update the members on further discussions that are planned in the interim with the Office of Public Works.

The members unanimously supported the motion, stating that St. Lawrence's Gate is part of our national heritage. Proposed to proceed onto the traffic management review and public consultation and to review same at the September meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____