

Borough District of Drogheda – 4th March, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 4th March, 2019, at Millmount, Drogheda.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. Frank Godfrey

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, R. Culhane, K. Flood, D. Saurin, P. Smith, O. Tully

Officials: Frank Pentony, Director of Services
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnston, Senior Engineer
Terry Hamilton, Public Realm Designer
Christine Mullen, Administrative Officer

Apologies: Cllr. K Callan

Minute No. 23/19

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on 4th February, 2019 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 24/19

Matters arising

- Minute no. 13/19 - an update on the rough sleep count was sought. The Director of Services, P. Donnelly informed the Members that there is no update yet.
- Members asked that standing order number 29, where members are permitted to speak for 4 minutes only, except with the permission of the Chair, is followed.
- An update on minute no. 13/19, King William's Glen was requested.
- Minute no. 14/19 – update on whether the approved housing body for Carlton House was contacted. The Director of Services, P. Donnelly, informed Members that the Council was exploring options and clarification was needed before proceeding with Carlton House.
- The Mayor welcomed back Cllr. T. Byrne to the MD meeting.

Minute No. 25/19

Housing Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and the following points were addressed:

- Cllr. J. Byrne referred to a motion she proposed at the Drogheda MD meeting in December, regarding the provision of a wet house in Drogheda and asked for an

update. The Director of Services, P. Donnelly informed Members that the Regional Action Plan for Housing will deal with provisions for Homelessness and that a wet house was being discussed but that there was no decision yet

- A query was raised if there was a Vacant Homes Unit in the Council and if the Council maps vacant units. The Director of Services, P. Donnelly stated that there is a Vacant Homes Unit in LCC, approx 100 properties were identified and that work in mapping these units is ongoing.
- The fact that the members were still looking at the December Housing Maintenance figures was noted.
- A query was raised about central heating requests from Council tenants and Members were advised that when a repair request is reported, it is dealt with on a priority basis and that there is no need to represent with the same query.
- An update on the infill housing at Rathmullen Park was raised and the Director of Services, P. Donnelly stated that an update would be provided next month.
- The Mayor welcomed back Cllr. T. Byrne to the MD meeting.

Minute No. 26/19

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting, and the following points were addressed:

- The pothole at Sunday's Gate was raised
- The issue of legitimising the pathway at Moneymore / Castlemanor was raised, including a query regarding ownership of the ditch.
- A copy of the new application made on the North Cross Route was requested
- A leak at a property at 3 Bolton Square was raised, and the difficulty accessing the property due to the flow of water causing problems for neighbours. The Senior Engineer, M. Johnston, advised that Irish Water had been contacted and that every effort is being made to pursue the owners.
- The dangers of the Rathmullen Road were raised, whilst the Council was also commended for works that have been carried out
- The Southern Cross route (Meath County Council) was discussed and the impact that it has in holding up housing developments
- The Seafarm Report regarding flood prevention at Drogheda was raised. The Director of Services, F. Pentony advised that this was a 10 year project and that the Council was waiting for the design briefs from the OPW.
- Cllr. D Saurin raised the issue of double yellow lines which were not extended at Mount St. Oliver
- Drainage / maintenance of the roads at Townley Hall and Slane were observed.
- Golf Course Road was noted to be in bad condition
- Pentony's Lane and Tullyallen were raised
- The matter of the provision of footpaths as part of the planning process was discussed, in particular, at Termonfeckin Road.

- Query if the owners of properties where there is graffiti have been contacted. The Senior Engineer, M. Johnston stated that the owners of the semi-state properties had been contacted.
- Palace Street / Jim Garry way – clearer signage needed
- The issue of cars ignoring the one way system at the Chord Road was noted.
- The problem with the sight line when exiting Riverview Mell was observed.
- A large pothole at Mary's Bridge was raised. The Senior Engineer, M. Johnston Engineer outlined that this problem would be resolved once works to the joint were completed.
- The issue of no funding for Heritage for Drogheda was noted.
- Aura Swimming Pool, Drogheda and the matter of the timetable changing for senior citizens swim time was raised.
- The Members requested a copy of the submission made on the Northern Cross Route and were informed by the Director of Services, F. Pentony that this would be made available to them.

Minute No. 27/19

Roads Programme

The Roads Programme for 2019 was circulated to members and was proposed by Cllr. D. Saurin and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith and agreed by the members.

Timeframes for the following proposed works were requested:-

- Constitution Hill
- Pedestrian crossing at Francis Street
- Knockbrack Downs ./ Ballsgrove – currently at design stage
- Donore Industrial Estate
- Five Oaks / Deep Forde, new footpath is imminent
- Haymarket Bridge – road markings at pedestrian crossing - noted
- Ramps at Marian Park
- Next phase of road works at the bus station
- Rathmullen Road / Priest Lane

It was noted that there was no provision for:-

- Ramps at Rathmullen Park
 - Termonabbey – lights not working
 - Seapoint Road junction
- Members queried if the same contractors would be used in 2019 and were advised that due to the tendering process this may change each year.
 - A report was requested on dangerous sections, Greenhills, Patrick Street, Marian Park, Docklands area

Members were informed by the Senior Engineer, M. Johnston that there were plans to deal with all Gullies. He also informed Members that that local tertiary roads could be better dealt with under the Community and Voluntary Scheme

Minute No. 28/19

Sympathies were extended to the families of Pat Finn, whose wife Sheelagh passed away recently. Sympathies were also extended to the families of Jim Comiskey, Owen Martin RIP who passed away recently.

Minute No. 29/19

The commencement of the Part 8 development works at The Tholstel, Drogheda (restoration and access works to the first floor and attic space for use as a multipurpose tourism visitor space), was **noted** by the Members.

Minute No. 30/19

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by Cllr. D. Saurin and **agreed** by the members.

Minute No. 31/19

Notice of Motion –

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"That Louth County Council investigate the lethal, high blind junction on the main Dublin Road coming from Stameen Housing Estate, following the many serious accidents over the years, and also investigate the issue of the current Traffic Management along the entire Dublin Road in terms of lights, crossings and lack thereof in places, to support a more efficient and safe flow of traffic into the town."

Reply:

LCC have provided 7 Traffic Lights along this stretch of circa 2.3 kms of road, i.e., between the southern Borough boundary and the Bull ring, that is a traffic light at about every 350m along the Dublin road south of Drogheda – as follows:

1. Traffic lights at Boyne Valley Hotel Junction.
2. Pedestrian Traffic Lights at ex-Flo Gas building.
3. Traffic Lights at Bryanstown Junction
4. Traffic Lights Drogheda Train Station
5. Traffic Lights at Scotch Hall car park entrance

6. Traffic lights at Mary Street junction

7. Traffic Lights at Bull ring Junction at St. Mary's Bridge

Speed limit along the Dublin road is 50kph which if adhered to should provide ample safe time for drivers entering/exiting the Housing estates along the Dublin road.

LCC have installed speed monitors along the Dublin road just south of Stameen Housing estate to alert the inbound & outbound drivers to the existing speed limit.

Any drivers breaking the speed limits is a matter for AGS.

LCC will consider implementing traffic flow restrictions at these access/egress points to prevent right hand turns crossing the flow of traffic.

The Members noted the reply

Minute No. 32/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. D. Saurin

Seconded by: Cllr. K Flood

"That this Council install a Zebra crossing on the main road through Tullyallen village to facilitate safe crossing for residents to the Village Shops."

Reply:

LCC are currently exploring the possibility of traffic calming measures at this location. Traffic count underway. 50kph speed limit road marking already done during December.

The Members noted the reply

Minute No. 32/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"This Council will apply to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for the Ministerial Consent, to treat and spray to remove foliage on Drogheda's Historic Town Walls, The Old Abbey, St Laurence Gate, The Buttergate and The Magdalene Tower and will carry out that work immediately, when consent is granted."

Reply:

An assessment of the structures will be required in advance of any application for Ministerial Consent to carry out works. It should be noted that supervision by a conservation architect/archaeologist would be required as part of the works. In addition, some

consolidation/repair work may be required in some places when foliage is removed. There is no funding in the current budget to carry out this work.

It was noted by Members that the reply was disappointing and that funding was required.

Minute No. 33/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

"Calling on Louth County Council to undertake an assessment and carry out the necessary repairs to the cobble walk way and the lighting leading up to the Millmount Martello tower."

Reply:

An examination of the walkway will be undertaken, and a report prepared as soon as possible.

The Members noted the reply

Minute No. 34/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Byrne
Seconded: Cllr. D. Saurin

"That this Municipal District sends solidarity and support to our Nurses and Midwives who have balloted for strike action to demand a safe, fully-staffed functioning health service that values and pays them as essential skilled workers. This strike began on 30th January and is set to continue at various stages throughout February."

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members.

A discussion took place with some Councillors highlighting that they were disappointed that the Motion was not reached at last month's municipal district meeting and that there may be a perception created that the Councillors did not support the motion for this reason.

The following amendment was proposed by **Cllr. P. Smith**, seconded by **Cllr. P. Bell** and agreed by the members

“That this municipal district extend solidarity and support to the INMO and RENI in their demands for proper pay and conditions and a safe and fully functioning health service on both sides of the border and we agree with the RCI statement deploring the political deadlock in northern Ireland which has left nurses with no pay rise for two years”.

The following amendment was proposed by **Cllr. P. Bell**, seconded by **Cllr. P. Smith** and agreed by the members.

“That this Council also supports other low paid essential skilled workers, employed by the HSE and related payscales also currently involved in a pay justice campaign.”.

The amended motion was agreed by the members.

Minute No. 35/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"That Louth County Council gives an update on funding and progress on the Northern Cross Route, Drogheda."

Reply:

Port Access Northern Cross Route

Land Acquisition ongoing. Fencing completed at R132. Application lodged under the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund was not successful, appeal lodged against this decision. Fill material being stockpiled. ESB is currently diverting the 38kv line.

The Members noted the reply

Minute No. 36/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

'That this Council make immediate representation to Bord Gais for the purpose of installing the necessary infrastructure to allow residents in Brickfield avail of gas heating for their homes'

Reply:

This is a matter for the Members.

The Members noted the reply with Cllr. P. Bell stating that he was surprised by the response.

Minute No. 37/19

Notice of Motion

MOTION: K. Callan

K. Callan was not in attendance and this motion was deferred to the next meeting of the Municipal District of Drogheda.

"Calling on Louth County Council to liaise with all schools along the Ballymakenny Road, and Drogheda Gardai to explore the current traffic congestion on weekday mornings with a view to preparing a report with proposed solutions to assist including but not limited to policed set down areas at schools and point duty at key junctions including Crosslanes & Beechgrove, Bothar Brugha and Sundays Gate."

Minute No. 38/19

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

"Calling on Louth County Council to provide right of way or stop lines at the junction outside 185 Pearse Park Drogheda. This junction is at present, not governed by any regulatory lines or signs and is extremely dangerous. There are no yellow lines to prevent cars from parking on the corner of the junction and any traffic coming from Crushrod Ave meets traffic head on while attempting to round the corner proceeding towards Sundays Gate. This situation needs to be addressed immediately in the interest of safety."

Reply:

185 Pearse Park – LCC have investigated the matter and are considering installing a Stop line marking and sign at the location.

The Members noted the Motion.

The meeting concluded at 7.30 pm

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____