

Borough District of Drogheda – June 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Governors House, Millmount Drogheda, on Monday 13th June 2022 at 4.45 p.m.

In attendance: *(All attendance was in person)*

Mayor: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Members: Councillors, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 52/22

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 9th May 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. Cunningham and seconded by Cllr. Callan.

Minute No. 53/22

Matters Arising

Minute 43/22 - Members were advised they would receive an update on St. Lawrences Gate from the public realm team at next meeting in July.

Minute No. 54/22

Housing Progress Report

Members noted the report as circulated at the meeting. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, addressed all matters raised by the Members.

The following items were clarified on request by Members:

- New Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) Circular is awaited.
- Where long term lease properties are purchased, while 1st refusal may be given, allocation must meet need and cannot circumvent those already on housing list.
- Part 8 is progressing on a number of properties for Moneymore infill.
- A number of surveys are being carried out on use of the gap between Moneymore and Castle Manor. 40 children use it for school access. It is not as simple as closing off.

Minute No. 55/22

Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed all Operations matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests at various locations the following items were highlighted:

- Disappointment at Drogheda's position as 2nd lowest on IBAL litter report. Members were advised €1.3m is spent in Drogheda annually, 17 staff employed to tackle littering, and bin allocation in Drogheda is higher than in Dundalk
- Confirmation of routes on Road Works Programme was given
- Some traffic light sequence issues would be addressed under Active Travel plans and would not therefore be looked at in interim
- The budget of €150,000 for footpath repairs, which includes drop kerbs and level crossings, priorities worst and most used locations. A list will be provided of planned works to councillors once plan is drafted
- Congress Avenue – plan is to meet Councillors and residents to discuss plans for one way system
- Budget for line marking is exhausted
- Where waste/litter is accumulated on private lands onus is on landowner to clear and prevent further dumping. However staff are willing to work to encourage clean up
- Business owners are responsible for provision of bins and clean up within 100m of business location
- Solar Bins cost circa €3.5k each.
- A query was raised regarding the difference in collection of bins and sweeping of estates in Drogheda versus Dundalk. Members were advised of historic town system arrangement which saw contract outsourcing in Dundalk versus direct labour in Drogheda, and prohibition of outsourcing of work now and advised littering is not directly linked to bin provision.
- Accessibility options at beaches are being explored.

Minute No. 56/22

Infrastructure Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer addressed all matters raised.

- A brief update on the Active Travel scheme in the area was given with Members advised of an email to follow with updated excel sheet.
- The Chief Executive advised that Development Contribution Scheme is still hoped to address the Port Access Northern Cross Route, and that a linear park is planned on the Port Access Road.

Minute No. 57/22

Derelict Sites Overview

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner addressed all matters raised.

Members were advised to register a Derelict Site under Section 8 of the Act the name and address of the owner is needed, otherwise a Section 11 notice is attached to the property setting out a list of works.

Advice was given on the difference between Derelict, and Dangerous Structures, and Vacant Properties and on the high test that must be met to render a property Derelict.

Members welcomed the briefing on the legislation and the definition of Derelict Sites and were advised that while legislation allowed Councils to carry out works in cases where owner did not, the cost was rarely recoupable. Louth County Council had addressed some properties by compulsory purchase order.

Minute No. 58/22

Nomination of Members to the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board

The following Elected Members were nominated to sit on the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board:

Cllr. Michelle Hall

Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

And resolved.

Cllr. James Byrne

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

And resolved.

Minute No. 59/22

Amenity Grants submitted in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001.

Approval of Amenity Grants as submitted to the Elected Members in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, were

Proposed by: Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr Tom Cunningham

And Resolved.

Minute No. 60/22

Drogheda Allocation of Members Community Grants

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Eileen Tully

And Resolved.

Minute No. 61/22

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Michelle Hall

"Asking that the local authority examine the possibility of repairing the handball alley in Millmount and opening it up for individuals and groups to use as a sporting location"

Reply from Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Corporate and Emergency Services

"The Council has carried out an initial assessment of the site and there are significant health and safety concerns. Any proposal to re-open would involve very significant capital investment."

As Members expressed dissatisfaction with the response as issued, the Chief Executive advised that this was all that was possible within the time frame allotted for response, and that the Executive were willing to carry out a further inspection and assessment of the handball alley but cautioned that initial inspection had indicated dangerous entrance and subsidence of walls, so there would be no quick fix.

Minute No. 62/22

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

"Will this Council assess the state of footpaths in the Scarlet Crescent Estate. In particular the central pedestrian area in the centre of the estate where there is loose paving in need of repair".

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

"Repairs are necessary. The extent of works required will be assessed and will be included in the 2022 Footpath Repair Programme the extent of repair being subject to budget limitations."

The Executive were thanked for the response as issued.

Minute No. 63/22

Notice of Question: Cllr. Kevin Callan – Response noted

"Will this Council confirm any plans to repaint disabled parking spaces in the Drogheda area?"

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations

Louth County Council are currently carrying out a condition survey of disabled parking spaces. Subject to funding those in need of repainting will be repainted.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 4 July 2022

Mayor: Michelle Hall

Meeting Administrator: Alex Horney