

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Governor's House, Millmount, Drogheda, on Monday 3rd October 2022 at 4.15 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr Michelle Hall

Members: **Councillor(s)** James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Tom Cunningham, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Eileen Tully

Apologies: **Councillor(s)** Fiachra MacRaghnaill

Officials: Gráinne Tuomey, Meetings Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Declan McMahon, Senior Engineer
Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer
Keith McArdle, Technician
Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer
Aideen Morrissey, Public Realm Architect

Minute No. 85/22

Confirmation of Minutes Ordinary Meeting

The minutes of the monthly meeting held on Monday 5th September 2022 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr Joanna Byrne and seconded by Cllr Eileen Tully.

Minute No. 86/22

Matters Arising

Min. 77/22: Thanks were given for the cutting of grass at Boice Court, and a request made for future upkeep.

Minute No. 87/22

Housing Progress Report

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

The following items were highlighted by Members:

- Not all housing maintenance requests will be addressed as some are tenant responsibility and therefore will not be dealt with
- The maintenance budget is structured to account for winter issues
- Payment plans are the preferred method of rent and rent arrear collection
- The Estate Management Team works with management company in Mill Wharf to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour

- 11 applications have been received for the Vacant Property Scheme including some in Rural Areas

Minute No. 88/22

Placemaking and Physical Development Report

Members discussed the report as circulated at the meeting. Declan McMahon Senior Engineer and Mark Johnson, Senior Engineer addressed matters raised.

Along with potholes, footpath repair, traffic calming, road safety and signage requests sign relocation & sign cleaning, road resurfacing, road lines and yellow box repair & painting, painting of parking and disabled bays, overgrowth cutback on roadside, visibility and sight line action at junction requests, at various locations, repair of damaged manholes, the following items were noted:

- Business owners have responsibility for litter within 100m of their premises
- A request was made to relocate the smart bench on West St due to congregation of persons allegedly engaged in anti-social behaviour. Members were advised the Gardaí have been asked to assist and that the issue pre-existed the smart bench installation
- Active Travel will report to the Municipal Districts on a quarterly basis
- Wardens are visiting local businesses to remind them of their obligations under the Waste Management Act & Waste Tyres regulations prior to Halloween. Bonfires will be removed where reported
- Environment Staff are closely monitoring the situation in Drogheda Port with regards the vessel, *Hebble Sand* and are satisfied that no significant pollution incident has occurred. A request was made to approach the Port company to provide specifics on its ultimate removal
- Summer schedule of extra bin collection at Tourist areas has now ceased and normal schedule is restored
- Two programmes dropped from the Road Works Programme will be given priority next year

Declan McMahon gave a comprehensive report on improvement works carried out in the Drogheda Municipal District following the negative IBAL result earlier in the year.

Minute No. 89/22

Taking in Charge Report

Director of Services Paddy Donnelly introduced Keith McArdle, Assistant Engineer as the new contact for Taking in Charge. Members welcomed Keith to the meeting. No queries were raised on the presented report.

Minute No. 90/22

Proposed Taking in Charge of Ard na Mara, Clogherhead

In accordance with S180 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and with Section 11(1) of the Roads Act, 1993, Approval of the taking in charge of **Ard na Mara, Clogherhead** and the declaration of the roads within the development as Public Roads as set out before Members in the Agenda, was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr Tom Cunningham
And Resolved.

Minute No. 91/22

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 Kevin Callan
Seconded by: Cllr Declan Power

And Resolved.

Minute No. 92/22

To receive a briefing on the Westgate Vision

Olivia McCormack, Senior Executive Officer introduced herself, Aideen Morrissey, Public Realm Architect to Members and Seamus Donohue, Director of Turley Planning to the Members.

Seamus Donohue presented Members with a visual 3D projection of plans for Westgate Vision which incorporated and linked together four areas of Drogheda, Westgate, the Medieval Wall the Abbey and the Riverfront marking its heritage and providing links to the river. Members were advised that a planning application will be submitted in coming weeks, and this would go to An Bord Pleanala rather than follow the Part 8 process as Environmental and Appropriate Assessments were required. There was an 18 week public consultation period following submission.

Members questioned whether the planning process timeframe might negatively affect any further funding applications under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, with Cllr James Byrne suggesting that the next call might be the last for funding. Removal of public toilets was noted and a request for reinstatement within the design and consideration of Changing facilities was made. Members were advised that the team were coordinating with Active Travel on cycle lanes and bicycle parking.

Minute No. 93/22

Condolences

Members offered sympathy to the family and friends of Shane McBride serving Station Officer of Louth County Council Fire Service and a minutes silence was held.

Minute No. 94/22

Notice of Motion – Cllr Tom Cunningham

Seconded by: Cllr Michelle Hall

“That Louth County Council seek funding to construct a footpath along the R168 from junctions with LP 2318 and LS6322”

Reply from C. Duff, Director of Services, Placemaking and Physical Development

“Currently Louth County Council have no plans to construct a footpath along the R168 from junctions with LP 2318 and LS6322”

Speaking on the Motion, Cllr Cunningham expressed disappointment with the response. Referring to comments of the Chief Executive in a recent CPG report where the lack of motions being submitted was mentioned, he advised that motions always get a “No” response, and not even a “No, but we’ll see” response. Cllr Cunningham considered that a footpath was badly needed at the location which linked an estate with a village and had sufficient verge space to accommodate a footpath. Cllr Smith suggested that perhaps Active Travel could be approached to assist.

Paddy Donnelly advised that where there was no funding and nowhere to seek funding nothing other than a ‘No’ response could be given. He suggested that if the route was suitable, he expected Active Travel would consider it.

Minute No. 95/22

Correspondence

Members were asked to consider the request from TASC to attend the November meeting and present on Participatory Budgeting of District Discretionary Funds. Five members were present, Cllrs. Eileen Tully, Joanna Byrne, Pio Smith, Declan Power and Michelle Hall. All agreed to receive a deputation and in accordance with Standing Order no. 45 it was agreed by Resolution of those present.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

7th Nov 2022

Mayor:

Cllr Pio Smith

Meeting Administrator:

Ala Spencey