

Borough District of Drogheda – April 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, Drogheda, on Monday 13th April, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. K. Callan

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, T. Byrne, A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, I. Munster, P. Smith, O. Tully.

Officials: Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator / A/Director of Services

Apologies: Mary T. Daly, A/Director of Services

Minute No. 39/15

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2015 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Smith and seconding of Cllr. R. Culhane.

Minute No. 40/15

Matters Arising

Minute 31/15 - Rathgory Road

Cllr. Byrne raised the matter of Rathgory Road and set out his dissatisfaction with the position the council had taken on this matter.

Minute 35/15 - North Quay Water Main Replacement

Cllr. Flood expressed dissatisfaction in the length of time it is taking to bring this matter to a conclusion.

Minute No. 41/15

Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum

To consider a nomination to the Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum.

Cllr. P. Smith was proposed by Cllr. K. Callan and seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

Cllr. A. Cassidy was proposed by Cllr. I. Munster and seconded by Cllr. K. Flood.

Borough District of Drogheda – April 2015

There followed a roll call vote in the matter.

For Cllr. Smith: Cllrs. Byrne, Callan, Culhane, Godfrey, Smith, Tully **(6)**
For Cllr. Cassidy: Cllrs. Cassidy, Flood, Munster **(3)**
Abstain: **(0)**
Absent: Cllr. Bell **(1)**

As Cllr. P. Smith received the highest number of preferences he was deemed to be selected as the representative for the Borough District of Drogheda on the Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum.

Minute No. 42/15

Housing and Community Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report dated 30th March which had been circulated with the agenda. Mr. Storey addressed the members queries in relation to the report, which included a request for the advice given in relation to the data protection issues surrounding the handover of details of residents to Irish Water, and the welcoming of the announcement of €57 million for the housing programme.

Members expressed their disappointment that the Minister for the Environment and Local Government, Minister Kelly, had not responded positively to meeting the members of the Borough District or Louth County Council in respect to housing requirements in the Borough District of Drogheda.

The Senior Executive Officer agreed to revert to the members on a number of issues and would revert when full details of how the housing allocation was to be spent.

Minute No. 43/15

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Progress Report

Mr. Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer and Mr. Pat Finn, Senior Engineer responded to the member's queries in relation to the Operation, Marine and Infrastructure Progress Reports that had been circulated with the agenda. Issues raised by the members included the Boyne Pontoon Project, Wheaton Hall, Drogheda Port, and the Boyneside Trail.

Minute No. 44/15

Taking In Charge and Unfinished Housing Development Reports

Mr. Pat Finn, Senior Engineer presented the reports circulated with the agenda and addressed members queries in relation to the data presented in the reports. It is

intended that these reports would be brought to members when there are significant changes in the status of developments, and that the reports would be presented biannually at a minimum.

Minute No. 45/15

Presidential Visit

The Mayor, Cllr. Kevin Callan, confirmed to the members that Uachtarán na hÉireann, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, had graciously accepted the invitation to attend and receive the Freedom of the Borough District of Drogheda. The date for this occasion has now been confirmed as 22nd May and further details will issue in due course.

The Mayor also indicated his intention to award Mayoral Awards to fourteen groups and individuals as follows:

- 1. Lauren Finglas**
Sacred Heart Student & Irish Dancing Champion just returned from Montreal success.
- 2. St. Olivers Scouts**
Celebrating 50th anniversary this year.
- 3. Padraic Kierans**
Former President Drogheda & District Chamber of Commerce.
- 4. Isabel Sanroma**
St Patricks Day Parade and Belarusian Orphans.
- 5. Garda George McGuffin.**
- 6. Former Mayor Tommy Murphy**
For Services Nationally and Locally to Boxing.
- 7. Coca Cola**
40 Years Supporting community.
- 8. Anna Mc Kenna**
Drogheda City Status Committee.
- 9. Joe Sweeney**
For services to Education and Drogheda President of St Vincent de Paul.
- 10. Frank Daly**
For services to Education and Sport.
- 11. Boyne Fishermans Rescue Service.**
- 12. ONE**
Drogheda Slane Branch – Retired Members of Defence Forces.
- 13. Dick Murphy**
Marleys Lane Community Volunteer.
- 14. Pauline O’Neill**
COPD Awareness Campaigner.

Minute No. 46/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

"That this Council seek to make provision in the 2015 Roadworks/Capital Works programme for bus set down area and related works in Donore Road, Drogheda".

Reply:

Funding for this bus stop is not available within the Revenue Budget (Road Works Programme) 2015 and it cannot be included in the Capital Programme until such time as a funding source has been identified.

Minute No. 47/15

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was proposed by Cllr. Munster and seconded by Cllr. Flood that, in accordance with Standing Order No. 69, Standing Orders be suspended to allow the meeting to continue in order to complete the Clár.

Following a discussion it was agreed that the Standing Orders would be suspended to permit the meeting to continue to 8:30 p.m., and to be reviewed at that time by the Mayor in order to deal with the business on the Clár.

Minute No. 48/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

"Having secured the return of the Green Merryweather fire appliance, that this Council make provision for the historic vehicle to be out on permanent display for tourism and educational purposes in the proposed open exhibition area of our proposed municipal building project in Fair Street."

Reply:

The Council can confirm that we have secured the ownership of the former Drogheda Albion Merryweather Fire Appliance and are currently reviewing repair and restoration options. It would be intended that the vehicle would be kept as a civic asset and all options will be considered.

Cllr. Cassidy sought clarification in relation to the cost of the Merryweather Fire Engine, together with the costs of repairs and maintenance of the vehicle.

Minute No. 49/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

"That safety measures be put in place at the bottom of Greenhills Road, as it is a very dangerous junction."

Reply:

The Council will undertake a review of the junction/road and determine if any works are required. Any works are contingent on funding being available.

Minute No. 50/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"That the Council put in rumble strips along Crushrod Avenue in the interest of slowing down traffic and public safety."

Reply:

The Council will undertake a review of the road and determine if any works are required. Any works are contingent on funding being available.

Minute No. 51/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on Louth County Council to introduce a Blue Zone short term car parking system in Drogheda that would allow visitors to the town to park free at selected times between Mondays to Saturday. This could be done on a trial basis to evaluate the systems effectiveness."

Reply:

The introduction of a Blue Zone to provide free short time parking in Drogheda would result in a shortfall in income to the Council, and is a matter for consideration by the Members in forming the annual budget. Pay parking is also a method of parking control as it preserves the most valuable parking spaces in the commercial areas of the Borough for multiple users, and therefore is a major benefit to the commercial life of the town.

Minute No. 52/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"Calling on Louth County Council to carry out all necessary works to allow traffic emerging from Termon Abbey and Aston Village to access the Newfoundwell Road in a safe and efficient manner."

Reply:

The Council will undertake a review of the junction and determine if any works are required. Any works are contingent on funding being available.

Minute No. 53/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Cassidy

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"That this Council carry out traffic calming measures in the immediate vicinity of Priest Lane/Congress Avenue owing to the increased use of this section of road by motorists avoiding the traffic lights on Platin Road. The road is unsuitable for the volume of traffic given its narrow layout, on street parking, the proximity fo Abacas School, as well as countless other children and pensioners resident in the area."

Reply:

A policy on traffic calming has been recommended by the SPC and will come before the full Council in April. The protocol and operation of the traffic calming policy are set out within the document and when or if it is approved, a more detailed response to this notice of motion can be prepared. Any works are contingent on funding being available.

Minute No. 54/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. A. Cassidy

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

"Given the approach of the 1916 Centenary, I think it appropriate to propose the renaming of the dual carriageway from the Bus Depot to the Bridge of Peace to be renamed as 'Eamonn Ceannt Way'. Given his families connection with the historic town of Drogheda, and the fact that this section of the road is unnamed. I feel as a council this is just one of the many ways we as public representatives can show our support for the brave men and women who gave their lives for the cause of Irish Republicanism in the run up to the 100th Anniversary of the Easter Rising."

Reply:

The proposal will be referred initially to the Infrastructure SPC and then the Placenames Committee for consideration.

Following a lengthy discussion on this matter it was agreed that the response, as set out, was an effective way to deal with this matter, and that the matter may come before the members at a later stage.

Minute No. 55/15

Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. I. Munster

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

"That this Borough District Committee notes the resolution made at the September 2014 meeting, recorded as Minute No. 20/14:

'Allowance for Mayor - Section 143 of the Local Government Act, 2001

The members considered the payment of an allowance for the Mayor in accordance with Section 143 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 37 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and in accordance with Circular LG 12/14 Part IV, Part B.

That the allowance of €12,000 per annum be determined as the allowance for the position of Mayor in accordance with the Circulars.'

and hereby revokes that motion and resolves that no allowance be paid to the Mayor of the Borough District, as provided for under Section 143 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as inserted by Section 37, of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and in accordance with Circular LG 3/2015, Appendix I, Part IV (7)."

As the time was approaching 8:30 hours, the Mayor agreed to allow the debate continue to conclude the business of the meeting with this item.

There followed a lengthy discussion, with contributions from all the members in relation to the payment to the Mayor of the Borough District, and to the Chairs of other Committees of Council.

Following the discussion the Mayor called for a roll call on the matter recorded as Agenda Item No. 884;

To reverse the resolution of the September meeting of 2014 recorded as Minute No. 20/14.

Borough District of Drogheda – April 2015

For: Cllrs. Byrne, Cassidy, Flood, Munster **(4)**

Against: Cllrs. Bell, Callan, Culhane, Godfrey, Smith, Tully **(6)**

The Motion fell. The time being 21:05 hours the meeting concluded.

The minutes were confirmed at the meeting held on:

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____