

Borough District of Drogheda – April 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 3rd April, 2017 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
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer

Minute No. 31/17

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. K. Flood.

Minute No. 32/17

Matters Arising

- It was requested that Silk Park be included in the quarterly Taking in Charge Report

Minute No. 33/17

Housing and Communities Progress Report

- Members were informed that construction of the development at Liscorrie would be closely monitored and the prospective tenants would be vetted in accordance with established procedures.

Minute No. 34/17

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- Disappointment was expressed that the traffic management plan for the area surrounding St. Laurence's Gate was not ready for consideration by the

members. It was agreed to have a special meeting in relation to the issue when the report was ready, and that the 2012 traffic management report should also be part of the discussion.

- It was agreed to circulate an update in relation to the damaged wall at Watery Hill.
- It was agreed to look into the possibility of putting a yellow box at the Mell junction as an interim measure.
- The need to ensure regular emptying of litter bins at the playground and skate park was highlighted and members were informed that increasing volumes of domestic waste were being put in litter bins.
- It was requested that the members provide details of repair works that were redone by the Council so that members could be provided with the necessary information.

Minute No. 35/17

A presentation was given by Ann McVeigh and Ciara Mac Cormack from the "Close the Gate" Campaign in relation to St. Laurence's Gate. The members commended the group for their activities.

Minute No. 36/17

Notice of Motion

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

"Calling on Drogheda Borough Municipal District to carry out a traffic study on the Ballymakenny Road at the entrance to Brookville housing estate and the junction at Greenbatter to determine if works are required in order to improve pedestrian safety and safe exit and entrance movements at these points. Residents in Brookville have expressed concerns that exiting the estate at peak times can be hazardous while there would appear to be congestion at peak traffic times at the Ballymakenny Road/Greenbatter junction leading to dangerous traffic movements. This junction is also a crossing point for children walking to school in St Josephs CBS and Greenhills Secondary School".

REPLY:

This matter will be investigated in accordance with the Council's Traffic Calming Policy. Subject to the findings of such investigation, compliance with the policy and the availability of the necessary resources the matter will be kept under review and the members advised of any plans in regard to this area.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 37/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

" That Louth County Council fire chief carry out fire safety regulation inspection at St Catherine's apartments within the Siena complex in the interest of public safety.

Do the apartments hold a fire safety clearance certificate?

Can you please furnish same at the meeting.

Why are there no fire escape stairways on the exterior of the building?

Are there plans to instruct the owners to have them fitted?

Does the building meet all current fire safety regulations?

Does safety work need to be carried out on Siena main building?

Two fires have have occurred in this building, one fatal, and I am concerned for the safety of the residents."

REPLY:

Do the apartments hold a fire safety clearance certificate?

Yes. A Fire Safety Certificate was granted for the development in 1998.

Can you please furnish same at the meeting.

Yes, will do.

Why are there no fire escape stairways on the exterior of the building?

The layout which was certified by the Council did not include external stairways as these were not needed to comply with fire safety standards.

Are there plans to instruct the owners to have them fitted?

No.

Does the building meet all current fire safety regulations?

No. The building was not constructed in accordance with the Fire Safety Certificate.

Does safety work need to be carried out on Siena main building?

Yes. ACFO Austin Concannon has highlighted serious fire safety deficiencies which require to be immediately rectified. He has written to the Property Management Company listing the works required. If there isn't immediate progress on this, a Closure Notice will be recommended.

It was agreed to investigate the immediate risk to residents of the development and report back to the members. The motion was agreed.

Minute No. 38/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

"That Louth County Council carries out a comprehensive site survey and generates a report on Drogheda Fire Station, Rathmullan Road, Drogheda dealing with the following issues;

How much did the new fire station cost back in 2008? Was there a guarantee on the work? How long is this valid for? If remedial action on the station is found necessary, when can this be expected to begin?"

REPLY:

Drogheda Fire Station cost €5.5 million and was completed in early 2008.

The builder went into liquidation at about the time the project ended but prior to the end of the defects liability period (usually 1 year).

No guarantee could therefore be given for the work.

If the guarantees had been given after the end of the defects liability/snagging period, their duration would depend on what element of the work was being guaranteed.

Louth County Council carries out remedial works in the station on an ongoing basis when the need for these arises.

Members expressed concern at the possibility of Council staff being at risk due to working in an unsafe environment. It was agreed to check if an inspection of the building had been carried out and whether or not the maintenance works being carried out related to problems with the original building work. The motion was agreed.

Minute No. 39/17

Notice of Motion

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

"That Louth County Council install a Pedestrian Crossing on Patrick Street, from the Magdalene Tower Walkway to the entrance of Church Street, in the interest of pedestrian safety."

REPLY:

The suggestion that a pedestrian crossing be installed will be reviewed by the staff and a report prepared on same. Any recommendation for the installation of a crossing will be subject to the necessary resources been available.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 40/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

"That this council writes to management of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda to ask that efforts are made to ensure free car parking for frequent treatment patients or a designated family member or carer during their treatment."

This is a matter for the members.

It was proposed by Cllr. K. Flood, seconded by J. Byrne and agreed by the members to amend the motion to replace the words "cancer patients" with "frequent treatment patients".

Members agreed the amended motion

Minute No. 41/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

" Calling on Louth County Council to provide a disabled parking bay outside the St Vincent de Paul premises on Trinity Street Drogheda.. "

REPLY:

The site will be inspected and the matter discussed with the residents in the area with a view to facilitating the installation of the parking bay as soon as is practical.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 42/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

This Municipal District will include an update/report on graffiti removal and on notices sent to third parties to remove graffiti in the operations report every month.

REPLY:

Report was circulated.

Disappointment was expressed at the lack of action by a number of bodies to remove graffiti from their premises and the need to issue more notices in relation to West Street was highlighted. Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 43/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Flood
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Byrne

"This Council will install a mini-roundabout at the junction of Blackbush Lane and Sunnyside Cottages, the area known as Kitty Daly's site, to alleviate the traffic congestion at this bottleneck and also install a footpath from Sacred Heart School to the same junction on the side of the street the school is on. "

REPLY:

This work would necessitate traffic and topographical surveys and analysis of the junction and in order to determine the feasibility of the proposed traffic management scheme and including any land-take requirements. Subject to such analysis and design the Council would then have to prepare contract documentation and in order to procure a contractor. There is no provision in the Roadworks Programme 2017 for the works and any surveys or analysis of the junction is premature until funding is allocated for same.

Members agreed the motion.

Minute No. 44/17

Notice of Question – Cllr. T. Byrne

" What is the current status in relation to the Drogheda Port Access Road/ Northern Cross Route, for example Land Acquisition, approximate Cost of the Road, Timeframe for Completion and can a Map, Clearly indication the route be provided with the answers."

REPLY:

Following CPO approval for the scheme 80-90 percentage of the land on the main-line has now been acquired. The project will be constructed in phases starting from the R132 roundabout on the North Road and progressing east subject to funding.

The Question was noted by the Members.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____