

Borough District of Drogheda – December 2016

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 5th December, 2016 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. O. Tully

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, 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
Mary T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer

Apologies: Cllr. R. Culhane

Other: Ms Aibhlín McCrann, Communiqué International

Minute No. 127/16

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November, 2016, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. P. Smith.

Minute No. 128/16

Matters Arising

- It was agreed to provide clarity in relation to the status of HAP tenants in respect of the Housing Transfer List.

Minute No. 129/16

Housing and Communities Progress Report

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

- Congratulations were extended to all involved in the effort for the Pride of Place competition in Monasterboice and Clogherhead.
- Members were assured that the Council is working with tenants and borrowers in arrears who engage with the Council to work out feasible plans for the repaying them.

- Members were informed that a new engineer would be joining the Housing Department shortly with responsibility for delivery of the Council's housing capital programme.
- Members were informed that cyclical maintenance of the Council's housing stock was scheduled based on the recent assessment of the condition of the houses and that while there were sufficient resources dedicated to reactive maintenance there can be delays at times of high demand.
- It was agreed to review the publicity strategy for the public forums of the Joint Policing Committees due to the low attendance by the public.

Minute No. 130/16

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- The recent collision of goods vehicles with the arch of St. Laurence's Gate was raised and members were assured that suitably qualified Council staff had inspected the structure and the OPW had been informed of the incidents. Members emphasised the need for a permanent solution to this issue and encouraged everyone to participate in the public consultation process for the traffic management plan that would include the issue of traffic passing through the archway.
- The issue of the temporary traffic arrangements on Crushrod Avenue while work was taking place on Harty's Cottage was raised. Members were informed that emergency services were informed of the plan and no feedback was received. The timing of the work was due to the schedule of the contractor. Members also commended the work being carried out on the cottage.
- Members were informed that the Council was engaging with private and public bodies with graffiti on their premises to try and have it addressed.
- Members were informed that the Council was in talks with the contractor in relation to the necessary works on Pentony's Lane and it would be the new year before the work commenced.
- Members will be updated about the disability access works at St. Peter's burial ground at the next meeting.
- Following concerns in relation to the conduct of the contractor acting on behalf of Virgin Media members were assured that the Council was engaging with them to ensure all works were carried out to the appropriate standard.

Minute No. 131/16

Louth Diaspora Strategy Update

Mary T. Daly and Aibhlin McCrann of Communique International gave a presentation to the members in relation to the Local Diaspora Strategy and outlined how it was

attempting to encourage emigrants from Louth to invest in their home county. Members commended the strategy and agreed to pass on any relevant contact details they had.

Minute No. 132/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. T. Byrne

"That the Borough District of Drogheda seek to purchase land for municipal playing pitches / community park for the greater Drogheda district. I request a report on Council-owned land in the greater Drogheda region and a report on land zoned for amenity use in the same area".

REPLY:

Louth County Council has secured €100,000 through the sports Capital Programme to develop playing pitches on the lands zoned 'recreational and amenity' on the northern side of Drogheda accessed from the Newtownstallaban Road. Louth County Council has layout drawings for the site and the issue of access to the site is currently being investigated internally. Please find attached map of lands owned by Louth County Council in the greater Drogheda Region.

The securing of the Sports Capital grant was welcomed and it was suggested that there was a need for an all-weather pitch along with changing facilities. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 133/16

Notice of Motion

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

"That this Council take immediate action to reinstate the boundary wall at Tredagh View which was removed without consultation with or the consent of local residents"

REPLY:

This section of boundary wall was knocked due to vandalism. The section of wall and debris was subsequently removed by Louth County Council for Health & Safety reasons. LCC Housing Section does not have any plans to reinstate this section of wall.

The need to restore the boundary was emphasised by the proposer and he emphasised his opposition to the position taken by the Council. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 134/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

" Calling on Louth County Council to instate a yellow box on the Dublin Road Drogheda at the entrance to Bryanstown Village. This will facilitate the residents exiting safely from the estate at peak times. "

REPLY:

The junction in question was inspected a number of weeks ago by the local engineering staff. Road marking works specific to this junction have been identified and are included in the work schedule for the contractor on their next visit to the area.

Minute No. 135/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"Calling on Louth County Council to bring forward to the elected members the following in respect of Parking in Drogheda.

1. A resident permit parking system in housing estates in the functional area of Drogheda. Where a plebiscite could be carried out and if residents agree to same a system is implemented. That Anneville Crescent/ Mellifont Park and Ashfield be used as a pilot for this scheme.
2. That the Council enter into talks urgently with bus service providers to move the existing bus stops at the top of the North Road beside the filling station to the other two existing stops on the far side of the Cement Road Junction and provide side of road parking for thirty cars at this location.
3. The Council confirm the number of car parking spaces currently in Drogheda and in the town centre area with reference to each specific street and the specific number of spaces which are provided on a pay parking basis and the revenue for each street and overall over the past five years.
4. That the Council stop any effort to stop the taking of a number of parking spaces in respect of the new Courthouse for Court staff and also prevent the placing of a driving parking centre in the narrow west street area".

REPLY:

1. Parking where appropriate and safe to do so is permitted for any and all vehicles who meet the requirements of the Road Traffic Act's in respect to Motor Tax, insurance and NCT certification. Parking controls are managed and enforced by way of a pay parking scheme (Pay Parking Bye-Laws) adopted and approved by Council. Such a scheme as proposed would in practice be an extension of the pay parking scheme and therefore would require an amendment to the pay

parking scheme. The creation of a precedent whereby only residents of a particular street were permitted to park would not be recommended.

2. The Council will examine the proposal investigate lands in our charge and suitability for a park & ride facility. If it is considered the proposal is feasible then we shall examine how the proposal may be progressed including funding and entering into discussions with bus service providers.

3. A total of 1170 on street parking spaces are provided within the area of the Pay Parking scheme and a further 575 parking spaces are available in Public Car Parks. These facilities are augmented by a number of private car parks as outlined on the attached map. Reports identifying revenue returns per street are not available for our current pay parking management system.

4. The construction of the Courthouse is provided by way of a Part 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, courthouses are a specified class of development 181(1)(a) of the Planning Act 2000 as amended which in the opinion of the minister for which the provisions of the planning act does not apply. The facility is as members will be aware constructed on lands owned by the Court Service which were purchased from Drogheda Borough Council.

181.—(1) (a) The Minister may, by regulations, provide that, except for this section F424[and sections 181A to 181C], the provisions of this Act shall not apply to any specified class or classes of development by or on behalf of a State authority where the development is, in the opinion of the Minister, in connection with or for the purposes of public safety or order, the administration of justice or national security or defence and, for so long as the regulations are in force, the provisions of this Act shall not apply to the specified class or classes of development.

In this regard the Local Authority had no control by way of a permission or conditions attaching to it in relation to the regulating of the car parking areas. In relation to regulating in the public area, this is regulated by our normal traffic control measures.

Following a discussion it was agreed amongst the members that they should form an informal sub-committee to develop proposals to address the issues raised in the motion. Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 136/16

Notice of Question – Frank Godfrey

" What is the total amount of rent and rates owed to Louth County Council in the Drogheda / South Louth district?"

REPLY:

The Total Rates owed to Louth County Council for Drogheda is €11,196,948 and for South Louth is €2,248,055. The Total Rent Rates owed to Louth County Council on 31st October, 2016 were €4,093,774. Unfortunately a breakdown of arrears by Municipal District is currently not available.

Minute No. 137/16

Notice of Question – Cllr. P. Bell

" Has this Council instructed the owners of a residential property at Cherrymount,Donore Road which was severely damaged by fire to demolish what is now a derelict building? And if not why not as the property is now an eyesore."

REPLY:

Louth County Council has served a Dangerous Structures Notice under Section 3 (1) (a) of the Sanitary Services Act, 1964 in respect of this property. The notice - which was put up on site - requires the owner to carry out certain works to the building to make the building safe or alternatively demolish the structure.

Minute No. 138/16

Notice of Question – Cllr. K. Callan

"Has this Council taken any action in its contact with Birdwatch Ireland in respect of swans being injured when colliding with bridges and structures in Drogheda."

REPLY:

When the Member initially made representation in July 2016 on this matter Staff contact Bird Watch Ireland who commented that they had not had such an observation in the past.. Usually with swans the issues relate to powerlines, and on these occasions the deflectors are extremely effective. They noted that the issue probably relates to Mute Swans which are resident as the migratory swans have not yet arrived in as yet. Perhaps the issue might have come about in relation to dispersing juvenile swans. To fully understand the issue a study would be required to evaluate the impact. Some regular observations during different times of the year looking under the bridge for damaged birds. There are similar examples of these kinds of bridges elsewhere and you could make contact to see has this issue arisen.

The Questions were noted by the Members.

Minute No. 139/16

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to the family and friends of the following:

Ms. Mona Moore

Mr. Noel Keane

Mr. Frank Doyle

Mr. Ciaran Kelly.

Minute No. 140/16

Members expressed Congratulations to TK Whittaker on his 100th Birthday.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____