

Borough District of Drogheda – February 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held on Monday, 5th February 2018 at Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. P. Smith

Members: Cllrs: P. Bell, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, R. Culhane, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, D. Saurin, O. Tully

Officials: Catherine Duff, Acting Director of Services
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. K. Callan

Minute No. 14/18

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2018 were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. P. Bell and seconded by Cllr. D. Saurin.

Minute No. 15/18

Matters arising

- There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 16/18

Housing and Communities Progress Report

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

- All queries were dealt with by the Senior Executive Officer, Housing.
- One member emphasised the need for the reintroduction of certificates of reasonable valuation

Minute No. 17/18

Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report

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

- The Operations Department took note of a number of issues including several road marking & repair concerns, the walls at Baltray Road, Termonfeckin bridge and Tredagh View, flooding on the Ballymakenny Road and agreed to investigate them and revert back to the members.
- It was agreed to circulate members with an update in relation to the thatch cottage on the Donore Road and in relation to action taken by the Council in relation to Bayview House.
- It was requested that the schedule of roads to have markings upgraded be circulated to the members.

Minute No. 18/18

Taking in Charge Progress Report

Members noted the report and had any queries noted by the Senior Engineer to revert back on.

Minute No. 19/18

Drogheda Allocations

This was proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey, seconded by P. Smith and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 20/18

To Approve the Draft County of Louth, Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws (No. 1), 2017

This was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by O. Tully and agreed by the members.

Minute No. 21/18

Drogheda City Status Presentation

Anna McKenna and Brian Hanratty gave a presentation and answered queries from the members, who voiced their support for the campaign.

Minute No. 22/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That the District Borough of Drogheda address the question of parking in the town, with regard to availability, location and suitability in central Drogheda, and carry out a review of same. The suitability of using the Old Abbey shopping centre as a multi-storey car park should also be explored."

REPLY:

"A meeting in respect of parking was convened and attended by Technical staff based in Drogheda. A follow up meeting is to be scheduled as soon as is practical. Discussions are ongoing with the OPW and Court Services in regard to the Abbey car park a decision on the matter is expected in the short term."

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 23/18

Notice of Motion

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

"That Louth County Council implements Traffic Calming/Pedestrian Safety Measures, as a matter of urgency along Scarlett Street, from the top of Francis Street to the Cottage Hospital and further beyond to Kierans' Corner, in the interest of public safety."

REPLY:

The location of Scarlet Street / Frances Street will be reviewed by the area team and any changes that are required and for which the resources are available will be included in a works programme for the new year.

Members noted the reply.

Minute No. 24/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

"Calling on Louth Co Co to carry out an audit of all pedestrian crossings in Drogheda. To establish if the audio equipment is in working order for visually impaired pedestrians and if it is in working order to ensure that the sound levels are sufficient to alert the user when it's safe to proceed."

REPLY:

Area staff will action an audit of all crossings which have an audible feature as part of the original installation. A report on the matter will be made available as soon as is practical.

The members noted the reply. It was suggested that a visually impaired person should assist in the audit.

Minute No. 25/18

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin**

“That Louth County Council acquires the open space, currently unused, on Donore Road between Joe Stanley Park and the walls of Millmount, where the Buttergate stands. This ground should be turned into an amenity park for the town's people, and would also be a tourist attraction, located between the bus station and Millmount.”

REPLY:

There are no plans to acquire this piece of land.

The members noted the reply.

Minute No. 26/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell

"That this Council commence the appropriate procedure to enable the closure of the existing right of way from Donore Road to St Finian's Park located between number 1 Donore Road and number 4 St Finian's Park for the purpose stopping anti social and criminal behaviour in the immediate area."

REPLY:

The Housing Section carried out a review of this and indicate that it is not feasible to close the above right of way on the following basis:

- 1. The proposed extinguishment will remove a pedestrian route from St. Finian's Park to the Donore Road which will encourage more vehicular journeys and conflict with the sustainable transport principles in the Louth County Development Plan 2015 – 2021, Refer to Sections 4.6, 7.2.2 etc.**
- 2. The proposed extinguishment also conflicts with the Permeability Principle as outlined in Section 3.3 of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets which promotes maximising the number of walkable/cycleable routes between destinations.**

3. Public lighting maintenance will require provision of vehicular access to the existing public lighting within the Right of Way, (ROW).

4. An existing 375mm diameter surface water sewer is laid within the ROW, flowing in a North to South direction onto the Donore Road. There is also a 150mm watermain and a 375mm surface water pipeline to which access needs to be maintained.

5. Existing ESB underground infrastructure is also laid within the ROW. This was installed by ESB networks to service the newly built Old Peoples Dwellings in 2006/07 and, as it was installed along a public path, no wayleave was required by ESB. If this ROW is extinguished, ESB may require a wayleave. (See attached ESB Networks Map).

It was agreed to defer this motion to the next meeting.

Minute No. 27/18

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. D. Saurin

“That this Council honour in full contractual obligations to fund the maintenance and now urgently required refurbishment of the Aura Leisure Centre located on Marley’s Lane, Drogheda.”

REPLY:

Louth County Council as the owners of the Municipal Swimming Pools in Drogheda and Dundalk are currently concluding discussions with the swimming pool operators on the matter of agreeing all reactive and planned maintenance and a capital replacement programme. This will result in both facilities getting the necessary investment in a programmed manner.

The members noted the reply but asked for an update at the next meeting in relation to the planned works and how the condition of the leisure centre is monitored.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____