

## **Borough District of Drogheda – March 2017**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 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, P. Smith & F. Godfrey.

**Officials:** Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Aoife Lawler, Senior Executive Officer  
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer  
Alan Sherry, Meetings Administrator  
Martina Sheeran, Acting Senior Engineer  
Padraig O' Hora, Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 21/17**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. P. Bell.

### **Minute No. 22/17**

#### **Matters Arising**

- It was agreed by the members that the abolition of the fee in relation to residential parking permits should be postponed until 2018 so that there would be no impact on the 2017 discretionary budget.

### **Minute No. 23/17**

#### **Housing and Communities Progress Report**

Members noted the report.

### **Minute No. 24/17**

#### **Operations, Marine and Infrastructure Report**

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

- It was agreed to give members an update in relation to the provision of additional playing pitches at the next meeting.

- The opinion of the Chief executive was sought in relation to the feasibility of the provision of a 50 metre swimming pool in Drogheda.
- A presentation was given by Paddy Scally of Irish water in relation to the water conservation rehabilitation works in Drogheda. He then answered questions from the members.

#### **Minute No. 25/17**

#### **LAWCO Presentation**

Aoife McCarthy and Gretta McCarron of the Local Authority Waters & Communities Office gave a presentation to the members in relation to the activities of the Office including the preparation of the River Basin Management Plan. They then answered questions from the members.

#### **Minute No. 26/17**

#### **Road Works Programme 2017.**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. P. Smith

**Seconded by:** Cllr. K. Callan

*Members agreed the programme.*

#### **Minute No. 27/17**

#### **Update on Taking in Charge of Housing Developments**

Members expressed concern at the length of time it was taking for estates to be taken in charge. It was undertaken to produce another update in 3 months time. A query was raised in relation to whether or not Louth County Council has sought funding from the €10m fund established to assist local authorities to carry out works necessary to take an estate in charge.

#### **Minute No. 28/17**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey

"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.**

***This motion was deferred to the April meeting.***

**Minute No. 29/17**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey**

" 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.**

***This motion was deferred to the April meeting.***

**Minute No. 30/17**

**Notice of Question – Cllr. P. Smith**

'Priory Lodge is in the process of being taken in charge, prior to this occurring there are outstanding works to be completed and Irish Water will have to assess the development. The surface course of the development has been laid to date and there are extensive repairs to the drainage network required.'

**REPLY:**

Priory Lodge Termonfeckin is in the process of being taken in charge. The final road surfacing has been laid but there are outstanding works remaining. The extent of same will be quantified when Irish Water completes its assessment. Pending this assessment it is not possible to give a timescale for the carrying out of the works.

The meeting then concluded.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_