

Borough District of Drogheda – October 2014

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 6th October, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor: Cllr. K. Callan

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

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Bernie Woods, Head of Finance
Mary T. Daly, Acting Director of Services
Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Liz Duff, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. A. Cassidy
Paddy Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Minute No. 27/14

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September, 2014, were confirmed on the proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey and seconded by Cllr. P. Bell.

Minute No. 28/14

To suspend the standing orders to discuss burst water main at North Quay.

Proposed by: Cllr K. Flood

Seconded by: Cllr. I. Munster

That the standing orders be suspended to discuss burst water main at North Quay.

Amendment

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan,

Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

That the business of the meeting be proceeded with.

The following members voted to suspend the Standing Orders:
Cllrs. T. Byrne, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, I. Munster (4)

The following members voted that the business of the meeting be proceeded with:
Cllrs. P. Bell, K. Callan, R. Culhane, O Tully (4)

As there was equality in the votes the Mayor did, in accordance with Standing Order No. 49, use his casting vote in favour of the amendment.

The amendment was carried.

Minute No. 29/14

Presentation by Drogheda Civic Trust

The Drogheda Civic Trust was awarded a Grant by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland to put in place a piece of Public Art in Drogheda. Nandi Jole who is the appointed facilitator gave a presentation to the Council, and both she and Michael O'Dowd addressed queries raised by the Members. They indicated that Buttergate appeared to be the favoured location and there was a strong feeling that it should be in the town centre, but it was a matter for the local people and the choosing of artists will be by open competition following public consultation.

Minute No. 30/14

Borough District Budgetary Plan

Joan Martin, Chief Executive, outlined the provisions of the Draft Budgetary Plan for the Borough District of Drogheda and addressed queries in relation to same. She outlined that the members may adopt the Draft Budgetary Plan of €50,000 with or without amendments, i.e, they may consider changes to the local charges applied in their district, with an increase or decrease in those charges impacting on the overall level of funding that may be available for the Draft Budgetary Plan. She advised that they could decide at a later stage where the monies are spent.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved.

That the Draft Budgetary Plan of €50,000 be adopted.

Minute No 31/4

Louth Heritage Forum

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane
And resolved.

That Cllr. F. Godfrey be elected as representative to the Louth Heritage Forum.

Minute No. 32/14

Delegation from Tenure Cottages Community Group

The Members considered a request to meet a delegation from Tenure Cottages Community Group. Following a discussion the Senior Engineer indicated that the only funding which was available for these works was the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) which involved the local residents paying 20% of the costs. It was agreed that Officials will write to Tenure Cottages Community Group to see if they wished to meet with Engineers in advance, or proceed to meet with Council at the Borough District Meeting.

Minute No. 33/14

Louth County Council Housing & Communities Progress Report

The members noted the Housing Progress Report dated 23rd September, 2014, which had been circulated with the Agenda and queries in relation to same were addressed by the Senior Executive Officer. He also gave a briefing on the new Housing Assistance Payment Scheme (HAP) and advised that a full presentation will be made on same at the October Council Meeting.

The members raised concerns about the high rents and low rental subsidies in Drogheda. The Acting Director of Services advised that she had received a reply from the Minister today regarding the rental levels in the Borough District of Drogheda area and general south Louth area and that the Council would forward same to Councillors.

Minute No. 34/14

Operations, Infrastructure and Marine Progress Report

The members noted the report for September 2014 and queries in relation to same were addressed by the Senior Engineer. In relation to the Community Involvement Scheme, Members advised that residents of Morgan's Lane and Pentony's Lane were not satisfied with the cost, and asked that the Senior Engineer contact them.

Minute No. 35/14

Water Services

Issues identified by Members included burst watermain at North Quay. The Members queries in relation to same were addressed by Acting Director of Services and Senior Engineer. Members were advised that funding has been provided by Irish Water for works on the burst watermain at North Quay, that works were expected to commence early in the New Year and that they were looking at alternative arrangements in the mean time to improve the situation. Members raised concerns that no one was contactable at the weekend to address issues and that the web site was not updated.

The Acting Director of Services advised that she would relay issues to Water Services and request that they are brought to the attention of Irish Water. Councillors are to be provided with an update on the position.

Cllr. K. Callan advised that he will be writing and making contact with Irish Water himself to resolve the issues.

Members also requested that Operations look at adjusting water pressure to Termonfeckin Road, Baltray and The Quays in Drogheda.

Minute No. 36/14

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. I. Munster
And resolved

That standing orders are suspended, as per Standing Order No 69, to proceed with the business of the meeting.

Notices of Motion

Minute No. 37/14

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by: Cllr. R. Culhane

“Will this Council immediately undertake to meet with stakeholders of the Narrow West Street Quarter of the town to discuss possible cooperation in seeking to address many issues regarding structures, improvement of streetscape and to begin a process of creating a viable medieval quarter of the town to include the area from the top of Dominic Street to Barlow House, Scholars’ Lane to Fair Street, the Abbey and St Patricks Well Lane.”

Reply

The Council has commissioned an Urban Design Framework Plan with the objective of providing urban design guidance for development within the Heritage Quarter of Drogheda. The Council acknowledges that Narrow West Street is an integral part of the town centre / heritage quarter and is willing to meet with stakeholders to discuss development in the area in the context of the Plan.

It was agreed that the Acting Director of Services meet with the Mayor and traders of Narrow West Street.

Minute No. 38/14

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

"That Louth County Council provide funding for the re-surfacing of Hamlinstown Lane, Monasterboice, Co. Louth and proceed to take the lane in charge, if necessary"

Reply

Louth County Council can only work on private lanes under the Local Improvement Scheme (LIS). However, funding has not been provided for LIS for the last number of years as all resources are directed to maintaining the public roads already in the charge of the Council. It is also some years since a private lane has been taken in charge by the Council as there is inadequate funding to maintain our current road infrastructure. The taking in charge of this lane is not recommended.

Minute No. 39/14

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

"That this Council immediately engage with the management of St Pauls and St

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Johns School, Rathmullen Park and local residents for the purpose of implementing a traffic management plan for the area, which should include a pedestrian crossing for parents and children."

Reply

The Council together with the Gardai have previously met with the principals of the National Schools to address traffic and parking issues. The BOM was granted planning permission (Ref. P.D. 11510084) for demolition of existing school buildings and construction of new school building and changes to access/egress arrangements, parking and provision of controlled pedestrian crossing at Marley's Lane.

Members stated that the response related to Marley Lane and not Rathmullen Road area. It was agreed that the Council will contact An Garda Siochana and the school authorities to review the traffic issues and make recommendations in respect of traffic management for the area.

Minute No. 40/14

Proposed by: Cllr. I. Munster

Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

"This council will send an engineer to the entrance to St. Paul's national school in Rathmullen, Drogheda with a view to making recommendations relating to the safety concerns of residents who are daily hemmed in by double parked cars, which also impede pedestrians and busses, while people collect their children from school."

Reply

The Council together with the Gardai have previously met with the principals of the National Schools to address traffic and parking issues. The BOM was granted planning permission (Ref. P.D. 11/510084) for demolition of existing school buildings and construction of new school building and changes to access/egress arrangements, parking and provision of controlled pedestrian crossing at Marley's Lane. The Council will contact An Garda Siochana and the school authorities to review the traffic issues and make recommendations in respect of traffic management for the area.

The time being 8:15 pm the business of the meeting concluded.

The minutes were confirmed at a meeting of Council held on:-

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____