

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. P. Savage

**Members:** Councillors: P. Bell, D. Breathnach M. Butler, T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
J. McGuinness Director of Services  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services  
P. Finn, Senior Engineer  
D. Storey, Senior Executive Officer  
M. T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer  
T. McEvoy, Head of LEO  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. J. Green

**Minute No. 271/15**

**Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell**

**Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith**

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2015 be confirmed.

**Minute No. 272/15**

**Matters Arising**

Minute Number 241/15 – Cllr. Sharkey – That the matter of reports from the Chairs of Strategic Policy Committees should be listed as a motion in order for it to be amended. The matter is to be considered and a report on same to be presented to CPG and Council.

**Minute No. 273/15**

**Minutes for noting**

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 5th October 2015  
Corporate Policy Group 9th October 2015  
Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC 17th June 2015  
Municipal District of Ardee 1st October 2015  
Municipal District of Dundalk 6th October 2015

**Minute No. 274/15**

**Monthly Management Report - distribution**

The Cathaoirleach requested the Meetings Administrator to outline the proposal agreed by the Corporate Policy Group in respect of the circulation of the Monthly Management Report. The recommendation of the Corporate Policy Group that the report continue to issue to the members electronically on or before the 7<sup>th</sup> day of each month and that a hard copy of the report be circulated with the Ordinary Meeting Agenda and that a second copy of the report not be issued as is now the practice. This was proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach and seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey and agreed.

**Minute No. 275/15**

**Monthly Management Report**

The members considered the Management Report dated 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015. Queries in regard to the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team and senior staff.

Issues addressed included matters pertaining to the Housing Directorate, a request that a copy of the due diligence report in respect of Drogheda Port be circulated to the members. The Chief Executive will revert on the matter and advised that if available it was likely that the report would be heavily redacted. Other issues raised included interest payable on Dunleer housing lands, the welcoming of exclusion orders, and clarification that the Council was not involved at this time in the housing of refugees.

**Minute No. 276/15**

**Section 183 Notice**

Proposed disposal of lands at Funshog, Ardee

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Minogue**

**Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly**

**And resolve;**

That having considered the Section 183 notice dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 agree to the disposal of 0.029 Ha. of land at Funshog, Ardee to Mr. John Murray for the consideration of €1000.00 plus costs.

**Minute No. 277/15**

**Conflict of Interest**

In the matter of the disposal of lands at Funshog, Ardee as per the Section 183 notice of 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015, Cllr. J. Tenanty declared a conflict of interest in the matter which was duly noted.

**Minute No. 278/15**

**Capital Assistance Scheme 2015**

**Proposed by: Cllr. O. Tully**

**Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith**

**And resolve**

That Council, hereby agrees to advance a loan in the sum of €142,569 to Clanmil Ireland Housing Association, for the provision of 1 (one) unit of accommodation at 74 Cherrywood Drive, Termonabbey, Drogheda, Co. Louth.

**Minute No. 279/15**

**Section 10 (4) Fire Services Act, 1981**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach**

**Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey**

**And resolve**

To agree to provide assistance to Meath County Council under Section 10 of the Fire Services Act, 1981, as amended for the joint provision of Fire Services in the East Meath area jointly by Louth and Meath County Councils, as set out in the memorandum of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015.

**Minute No. 280/15**

**Arts Act Grants**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach**

**Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan**

**And resolve**

To confirm the award of the twenty Arts Grants recommended in the report on the Louth County Council 2<sup>nd</sup> Round 2015, Arts Act Grants scheme.

**Minute No. 281/15**

**Protocol Committee**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach**

**Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan**

**And resolve**

To confirm the recommendation of the CPG who having considered this matter on foot of a Motion at the October meeting recommend the establishment of a Protocol Committee whose membership shall be made up of a representative of each political party represented on Council, together with a representative of the non party members. The membership should also include the Cathaoirleach of the Council and the Cathaoirleach/Mayor of the respective Municipal Districts where they are not already a nominee of the respective political grouping.

The following members were confirmed as the respective nominees.

<b>Party/Grouping</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Seconded</b>
Non Party	<b>Cllr. K. Callan</b>	Cllr. M. Yore	Cllr. J. Tenanty
Fine Gael	<b>Cllr. O. Tully</b>	Cllr. M. Doyle	Cllr. R. Culhane
Sinn Féin	<b>Cllr. T. Sharkey</b>	Cllr. I. Munster	Cllr. E. Corrigan
Labour	<b>Cllr. P. Smith</b>	Cllr. P. Bell	Cllr. L. Reilly
Fianna Fáil	<b>Cllr. C. Keelan</b>	Cllr. Breathnach	Cllr. M. Yore
Comhaontas Glas	<b>Cllr. M. Dearey</b>	Cllr. M. Butler	Cllr. L. Reilly

**Minute No. 282/15**

**Civic Honours Protocol**

**Proposed by: Cllr. D. Breathnach**

**Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully**

**And resolve**

That the recommendation of the CPG in this matter, together with the observations from a number of elected members, be referred to the new Protocol Committee for further consideration and recommendation on the matter to be returned to the CPG and Council for consideration and approval.

**Minute No. 283/15**

**Nomination to the Board of An Táin Arts Centre**

In reference to minute number 253/15 Cllr. J. McGahon advised that he could not commit to the Board at this time. Cllr. Yore was proposed as the second nominee to the Board of An Táin Arts Centre by Cllr. Conor Keelan and seconded by Cllr. Pío Smith.

**Minute No. 284/15**

**Votes of Sympathy**

Votes of sympathy were recorded in respect of the following.

Noel Brilley, Waterworks Caretaker, on the death of his father Mr. Noel Brilley Senior

Aisling Sheridan, Housing & Community, on the death of her father Mr. John Rogers

The Family of the late Dr. William Irwin, Drogheda  
The Family of the late Stephen Melia former Louth GAA player

**Minute No. 285/15**

**Members Community Grants**

**Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully**  
**Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey**  
**And resolve:**

To approve the allocation of Members Community Grants numbering seventy three (73) as circulated with the agenda.

**Minute No. 286/15**

**Conference and Events**

**Proposed by Cllr. J. Tenanty**  
**Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly**  
**And resolve:**

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference and Events register at such conference and events listed with the agenda

**Minute No. 287/15**

**Notice of Question**

**Cllr.I. Munster**

Can the Council carry out and furnish a study on housing stock and tenants, to include how many tenants are about to reach old age, how many are in two storey and three bedroomed houses?

**REPLY:**

**Louth County Council have recently invited tenders to carry out a condition survey of all housing stock in the county. On completion of the survey the Council will have a very detailed inventory of housing stock and condition of same. We have no current plans to relate the stock to the age of the tenant. Age related matters are dealt with on a case by case basis.**

**Minute No. 288/15**

**Notice of Question**

**Cllr J. McGahon**

As the range and complexity of tasks which fire-fighters undertake continues to expand, what percentage of County Louth fire-fighters are certified first responders?

How many public buildings in County Louth currently have a defibrillator installed?

**REPLY:**

**There is no requirement to have Fire Service staff trained as First Responders.**

**County Hall, Dundalk**

**Town Hall, Dundalk**

**Civic Centre, Drogheda**

**Lourdes Stadium in Drogheda**

**Minute No. 289/15**

**Notice of Question**

**Cllr. A. Cassidy**

What allowances were paid to the Chairperson of Louth County Council, and Vice Chair? What allowances were paid to the Chairs of the SPC's?

**REPLY:**

**The annual allowances paid are as approved by the members and provided for in the Budget. These include :-**

**Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council €20,000, Leas-Cathaoirleach €4,000 and the Chairs of the SPCs €6,000 each.**

**Minute No. 290/15**

**Notice of Question**

**Cllr. M. Dearey**

When will the small area analysis for rates collection for the County be available?

**REPLY:**

**This information will be made available to Council by year end.**

**Minute No. 291/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed Cllr. P. Bell Seconded Cllr. P. Smith**

That this Council make budgetary provision in the interest of public safety for the installation of a bus set down area on the Donore Road, Drogheda in close proximity to the gates of Becton, Dickinson & Company.

**Reply**

**The Council has identified a need for a bus set down area at this location and will make an application to the National Transport Authority for funding for same for 2016**

Agreed that the cost details of the project be circulated.

**Minute No. 292/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed Cllr. D. Breathnach Seconded Cllr. M. Yore**

That Louth County Council in adopting its budget for 2016 resolve to provide equality in its road work programme to our tertiary road network. Further that an audit of the condition of these roads be done and that an ongoing programme be drawn up to ensure that year on year they are getting benefit from our roads programme.



**Reply**

The principle that has always applied to the allocation of funding to roads is that the roads carrying the most traffic receive the largest funding share per kilometre of road. This applies to national primary roads, which receive the most funding followed by national secondary, regional and then county or local roads. Within the county road network, the roads are classified as either local primary, local secondary and local tertiary, in order of importance and traffic volume using the road. The funding for local roads is to be shared between these three classes, with again the primary roads receiving more than the secondary and the secondary more than the tertiary roads. With the reduction in funding in the roads budget over the last six or seven years, there is insufficient funding available to maintain the road network and the focus has been on those roads carrying the most traffic. Any funding allocated to local tertiary roads is funding removed from busier roads.

The condition of the entire road network is monitored/audited by the Area Engineers and General Service Supervisors, and the general condition of the network is deteriorating, and will continue to do so until sufficient funds are provided.

**Minute No. 293/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed Cllr. D. Breathnach Seconded Cllr. M. Yore**

That Louth County Council request the Ministers for Environment and Finance introduce a scheme in Louth to allow for the leasing of vacant houses whereby a graduated grant would be made available to the owner/council to bring these properties into use for the purposes of social housing. The grant available to these properties would be calculated on the length of time that these properties would be made available to lease for social housing ,eg.75%grant for 20 year lease,50%for 15 year lease and 25% for minimum 10 year lease.

**Reply:**

**This is a matter for the Members**

*Following a debate on the matter there was a roll call vote by way of a show of hands. There were thirteen (13) in Favour and fourteen (14) against the motion fell.*

**Minute No. 294/15**

**Paris terrorist attacks**

The Cathaoirleach lead a minutes silence in memory of the victims of the Paris attacks on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Minute No. 295/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed Cllr. I. Munster Seconded Cllr. E. Corrigan**

That Louth Council resolves not to pay allowances to the Chairperson of Louth County Council, the Vice Chairperson of Louth County Council, and the Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy Committees of Louth County Council for the financial year of 2016.

**Reply:**

**This is a matter for the Members**

Amendment

**Proposed Cllr. P. Bell Seconded Cllr. P. Smith**

Where a Councilor wishes to surrender to Council or a third party their allowance or part thereof that they be so facilitated to do.

There followed a roll call vote

**Amendment**

**For:** Cllrs. Bell, Callan, Godfrey, Savage, Smith Tenanty **Total six (6)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Breathnach, Butler, Byrne, Cassidy, Corrigan, Culhane, Cunningham, Dearey, Doyle, Flood, Keelan, Loughran, Markey, McGahon, McGeough, Meenan, Minogue, Munster, Reilly, Sharkey, Tully, Yore **Total Twenty Two (22)**

**Absent:** Cllr. Green **Total one (1)**

The Cathaoirleach confirmed the amendment fell.

Motion

**For:** Cllrs. Cassidy, Corrigan, Cunningham, Flood, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Sharkey, **Total nine (9)**

**Against:** Cllrs. Bell, Breathnach, Butler, Byrne, Callan, Culhane, Dearey, Doyle, Godfrey, Keelan, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Reilly, Savage, Smith, Tenanty Tully **Total Twenty Eighteen (18)**

**Abstain:** Cllr. Yore **Total one (1)**

**Absent:** Cllr. Green **Total one (1)**

*The Cathaoirleach confirmed that the motion fell.*

**Minute No. 296/15**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed Cllr. J. McGahon Seconded Cllr. C. Markey**

That Louth County Council agree to receive a presentation from members of the Louth Agricultural Show Committee on their plans for the 2016 show".

**Reply:**

**This is a matter for the Members**

*The matter be referred to the Corporate Policy Group for consideration.*

**Minute No. 297/15**

**Motions from other Councils.**

The following notices of motion were noted:

Galway City Council dated 15th October 2015

Clare County Council dated 16th October 2015

***On the proposal of Cllr. Corrigan seconded by Cllr. Flood it was agreed that this council write to the Taoiseach and Minister respectively in support of both motions.***

**Minute No. 298/15**

**Chief Executives Order Register**

The Register was available for inspection.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

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

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_