

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council October 2015

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 19th October 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, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, I. Munster, L. Reilly, 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
J. Lawrence, Administrative Officer
P. Donnelly, Director of Services, Meetings Administrator

Others: Padraig White, Chair Louth Economic Forum

Apologies: Cllr. J. Green

Minute No. 237/15

Confirmation of Minutes

Meeting of 21st September 2015

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

And resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st September be confirmed.

Minute No. 238/15

Confirmation of Minutes

Special Meeting of 28th September 2015- Co. Development Plan

Proposed by: Cllr. R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

And resolve:

That the minutes of the Special meeting held on Tuesday 28th September in regard to the County Development Plan – 2015 to 2021 be confirmed.

Minute No. 239/15

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 7th September 2015

Corporate Policy Group 11th September 2015

Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services 20th July 2015

Infrastructure, European and Cross Border SPC 21st May 2015

Municipal District of Ardee 3rd September 2015

Municipal District of Dundalk 1st September 2015

Minute No. 240/15

Committee Reports

Corporate Policy Group – The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Savage reported on the meeting held on 9th October 2015

Housing Community Planning and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee – The Chair of the Committee Cllr. Munster reported on the meeting held on 24th September 2015

Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Strategic Policy Committee – The Chair Cllr. Breathnach reported on the meeting held on 22nd September 2015

Minute No. 241/15

Committee Reports by Cathaoirleigh

Following a discussion re the accuracy of some of the reports in respect of Strategic Policy Committees

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Tenanty

And resolve:

That the practice of Cathaoirleigh reporting on committee meeting is discontinued and members refer to the minutes when confirmed & circulated.

Minute No. 242/15

Protocol Committee

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by Cllr. O. Tully

And resolve:

That the Corporate Policy Group examine the practice of Protocol Committees with a view to reporting to Council on how one might be established.

There was a show of hands in the matter 13 For, 2 Against, 11 Abstentions and 3 absent.

The proposal was carried.

Minute No. 243/15

To agree a date for the Annual Budget meeting.

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach

Seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle

And resolve:

That in accordance with Section 103 of the Local Government Act, 2001 the Annual Budget meeting be held immediately following the November Ordinary Meeting of Council on Monday 16th November 2015.

Minute No. 244/15

Monthly Management Report – September 2015

The members considered the Management report dated 7th October 2015. Queries in regard the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team and Senior Staff.

The Chief Executive, Mrs. Joan Martin outlined to the members her decision to action an Internal Audit in regard to procedures following the identification of a mis-interpretation of the Rent Scheme Guidelines. The internal audit report notes that there was nothing untoward in the practice. The Chief Executive regrets that the error occurred, but once the practice had been established it continued and it was unfortunate that the guidelines had not been interpreted correctly.

Minute No. 245/15

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were recorded in respect of the following.

- To Marcella Reynolds, Library Service on the death of her Father Mr. Jackie Martin.
- To the family of the late May O'Hagan, former staff member of Louth County Council.
- To Frank Pentony, Director of Services on the death of his Brother Mr. Paul Pentony.
- To the Families of the victims of the Carrickmines Fire Tragedy.
- To Mrs. Golden and her Family on the death of her husband Garda Anthony Golden.
- To the Family of Mr. Peter Sands, Dunleer, former staff member of Louth County Council.
- To Family and friends of the late Monsignor Francis Donnelly
- To Mrs Grainne Mulligan and her daughters on the death of her Husband Martin Mulligan.
- To The Marist Community on the death of Fr. John Mulligan, SM
- To the Family of the late Fr. Raymond Rafferty, formally of Greenore.

A minutes silence was observed by the members as a mark of respect to the late Garda Tony Golden.

Minute No. 246/15

Votes of Congratulations

Votes of congratulations were recorded in respect of the following:

- Dundalk Football Club on their recent success in the league competition.
- Louth Ladies Football Team on winning the All Ireland competition.
- St. Nicholas football team on their recent success.
- St. Marys, under 14 on their recent success.
- St. Feckin's football club on their recent success

Minute No. 247/15

Overdraft Facility

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

And resolve:

To confirm the approval to extend an overdraft facility of five million euro until the end of December 2016.

Minute No. 248/15

Loan Advancement

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. T. Byrne

And resolve:

That this Council, hereby agrees to advance a loan in the sum of €152,355 to Clanmil Ireland Housing Association, for the provision of 1 (one) unit of accommodation at 18 Pines Hamlet, Dublin Road, Drogheda.

Minute No.249/15

Section 183 Notice

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. O. Tully

And resolve:

To dispose of Fee Simple in respect of number 23 Ship Street, Drogheda to the Josephine Judge for the sum of €400 as set out in the notice dated 5th October 2015.

Minute No. 250/15

County of Louth Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2009

**Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler
And resolve:**

To Approve the "Louth County Council, County of Louth, Speed Limit Bye-Laws 2003, 3rd Revision (Low Cost Safety Schemes) 2015"

Minute No. 251/15

Draft Broadband Action Plan

Mr. Pádraig White, Chairman of the Louth Economic Forum presented a Draft Broadband Action Plan.

The plan was adopted on the proposal of Cllr. M. Butler seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey.

Minute No. 252/15

Draft Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws

The members noted the "Draft Dog Litter and Dog Control Bye-Laws" developed by the Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Strategic Policy Committee and on the proposal of Cllr. Reilly Seconded by Cllr. Byrne the members agreed to the draft Bye-Laws proceeding to Public Display phase.

Minute No. 253/15

Nomination to the Board of An Táin Arts Centre

Having considered the matter the members agreed the nomination of Cllr. Conor Keelan on the proposal of Cllr. D. Breathnach and Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan and the nomination Cllr. John McGahon on the Proposal of Cllr. M. Butler Seconded by Cllr. O. Tully to the Board of An Táin Arts Centre.

Minute No. 254/15

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee.

The Members noted the nomination of Mr. Thomas McEvoy, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office and agreed the nomination of Mr. Michael Gaynor, President, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce to the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) on the Proposal of Cllr. F. Godfrey seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

Minute No. 255/15

Louth Local Sports Partnership.

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

And resolve:

To nominate Cllr. Jim Tenanty to the Board of the Louth Local Sports Partnership.

Minute No. 256/15

Members Community Grants

Proposed by Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

And resolve:

To approve the allocation of Members Community Grants numbering forty Eight (48) as circulated with the agenda.

Minute No. 257/15

Conference and Events

There were no requests to attend the conference and events listed with the agenda.

Minute No. 258/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. P. McGeough

What works have Louth County Council carried out to date to prevent the ongoing problem of flooding in St Olivers Park Kilsaran?

REPLY:

After the heavy rainfall last winter the gullies within the estate were cleaned and this allowed the water to get away. The gullies are checked by the area staff at times of heavy rainfall to ensure that they are not blocked. In addition, the estate is included in a programme for gully cleaning to be carried out in the mid-Louth area within the next month.

Minute No. 259/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. K. Flood

Of the 29 Housing Estates Classified as unfinished in the National Survey of Unfinished Developments in County Louth, how many estates have cash bonds available to finish them, how many estates have security bonds and how many have no bonds available?

REPLY:

Louth County holds a cash bond for 22 of the listed developments, 2 have paper bonds in place and in one case the bond was sequestered by the Council to carry out works. Four of the estates have no bond in place.'

Minute No. 260/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. D. Breathnach

A commitment was made by this Council to provide a cycle track along the full length of the new road section on the N53 from Barronstown to Hackballscross. Will the executive please circulate the latest details of the safety measures to be provided? Will the Executive provide the section view drawings of the new road to show how the safety of cyclists and walkers will be achieved?

Please confirm that youngsters cycling to the two secondary schools on the Castleblaney Road will be protected from traffic travelling at 100km / hr by being adequately grade separated or better still by having a speed protection barrier to protect the walkers and cyclists".

REPLY:

The Council is incorporating cycle lanes in the N53 road works scheme currently under construction. Details as requested are attached. The Council is also seeking sanction to extend the cycle lanes eastwards for a further 200m to connect up with the old road which is now bypassed.

Minute No. 261/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. I. Munster

Can this council provide a full list of vacant and boarded up properties in County Louth with a detailed list of both vacant and boarded up properties outlining how long each property has been idle and the reasons for same along with turn around time and targets?

REPLY:

Louth County Council do not collate a list of boarded up dwellings, but do on an ongoing basis maintain a list of vacant properties, which are vacant and being prepared for allocation. An extract of this list has been included in the October Management Report. The Housing Authority uses three designations currently, casual vacancies, long term voids and acquisitions to stock, all of which are managed differently. The list can be amended to show factual information such as when the property became vacant and the status of the project. It is impossible to set dates on when specifically allocated, as there are many variables such as design requirements, procurement requirements, allocation processes and refusal rates. The Council are advised every month of the numbers generally that are undertaking works and/or are ready for allocation. With a stock of nearly 4,000 units approximated 1-1.5% of stock can be vacant at any time with an average period of 15 weeks.

Minute No. 262/15

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. J. Tenanty

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

And resolve:

To suspend Standing Orders in accordance with Standing Order 24 to facilitate the meeting continuing until 1345 hrs. if required.

Minute No. 26315

Notice of Motion

Proposed Cllr. M. Dearey Seconded Cllr. M. Butler

That Louth County Council immediately tender for a smart pay parking system in Dundalk to make it easier for people to pay their parking charges, by expanding the number of options available to them, including but not limited to

1. use of debit/credit cards including contactless
2. Paypal
3. Parking by Text
4. Parking by Tag

Background information

In the past number of years a number of references to improving the parking system in Dundalk, including a smart system that could include parking by text.

1. Dundalk Town Council published a tender in October 2010 (Tender no. SEP171415) - "Supply of Installation of on-street Parking Pay & Display Machines, Dundalk"
2. Draft Annual Budget 2013 listed a Priority Action "Replacement of Pay Parking Machines"
3. Statutory Audit Report for year ended 31st December 2012

Managers response to tendering issue

"It is the Council's intention to tender for the supply of new pay parking machines in 2014"

Reply

Louth County Council is currently upgrading our traffic fines system and our handheld warden's equipment. Following the completion of this (during November), LCC will evaluate the need to upgrade/replace the network of parking meters in both Dundalk and Drogheda. As part of the specification for replacement meters, the provision of payment options using contactless and chip and pin devices for credit/debit cards will be (a requirement/considered). Smart payment options will also be evaluated/costed as part of this process and will be provided if financially viable

Minute No. 264/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed Cllr. K. Flood Seconded Cllr. I. Munster

This Council requests that the Louth Leader Partnership reverse the decision made by the Board of LLP in 2012 not to fund any more playgrounds in the County. This restriction on accepting applications still stands today and does not reflect the need for playground facilities in large areas of the County"

Reply:

This matter was agreed by the members and to be forwarded to Chief Officer, LCDC, Louth County Council

Minute No. 265/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed Cllr. I. Munster Seconded Cllr. K. Flood

Calling on Louth County Council to carry out property inspections prior to granting HAP (Housing Assistance Payment). The current policy of carrying out inspections retrospectively after granting HAP approval is causing major problems for tenants who have been served with eviction notices from landlords unwilling to carry out compliance works following inspections. This policy is adding to people presenting themselves as homeless and also creates a nightmare scenario for tenants having to search for another property when there are very few available due to chronic shortage. To have inspections prior to

granting HAP approval would ensure that people/families are not living in sub-standard accommodation and that the taxpayer is not forced to subsidise sub-standard private rented accommodation.

Reply

Louth County Council are implementing the guidance provided in the directions that were issued as part of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) Pilot Project for Louth and all other Phase One and Two Pilots. These provide for the inspection of properties within eight months of the tenancy commencing

The Cathaoirleach called for a show of hands in the matter.

For: Nine (9) Against: Fifteen (15) Absent Five (5)

The motion was defeated.

Minute No. 266/15

Notice of Motion

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

"I ask that Louth Co. Council and The Louth Economic Forum with the help of all Councillors declare County Louth a cycle friendly county and invite Failte Ireland to meet with the council on this issue. That the Louth Economic Forum devise a specific cycling tourism strategy for the county that incorporates strategy, route selection and design, target potential markets, and implications for services relevant to Louth. I also call on Louth Local Authority to carry out a review to determine if specific signage is required to increase the safety of cyclists and promote Louth as a Cycling Tourist Destination"

Reply:

Following the announcement by Failte Ireland of the new destination 'Ireland's Ancient East' the Louth Economic Forum Tourism and Heritage Committee is currently in the process of reviewing the tourism strand of its ten point economic plan. A workshop was held with the representatives from across the sector ranging from hospitality to tour operations, heritage, arts, local authority and local community representatives to discuss how Tourism and Heritage in County Louth can best capitalize on the new Failte Ireland Ancient East Strategy. This will include actions on activities and leisure including walking and cycling. It is anticipated that actions with regard to cycling will also be included within the Local Economic and Community Plan which is currently at draft stage. Currently

the county of Louth is a cycle friendly county with the recently opened greenway from Omeath to Carlingford. An extension to the greenway and other cycle friendly infrastructure will require further financial investment which is currently not available. The Council will continue to pursue and avail of any funding which becomes available.

Proposed Cllr. P. Smith Seconded Cllr. M. Yore

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Dearey
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler
And resolve:**

That a cycling officer be appointed as envisaged under the National Cycling Policy.

Minute No. 267/15

Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted.

Letter from the Minister for Justice & Equality
Letter from An Táin Arts Centre re Board Nominations

Minute No. 268/15

Motions from other Councils.

The following notices of motion were noted:

Cllr. Butler proposed, seconded by Cllr. Dearey that the motion from Leitrim Co. Council in respect of the Free travel pass be accepted.

- Galway County Council 30th September 2015
- Sligo County Council 17th September 2015
- Clare County Council 24th September 2015
- Tipperary County Council 18th September 2015
- Leitrim County Council x 2 28th September 2015

Minute No. 269/15

Chief Executives Order Register

The Register was available for inspection.

Minute No. 270/15

Summary

The Cathaoirleach advised member to ensure:

- Comments on Civic Honours Protocol are submitted by 30th October.
- Members Allocations final date for submission of same in the current year is Monday 2nd November.
- Proposal on Speed limits as soon as possible.
- Budget Meeting will immediately follow the November meeting. Lunch will be provided. Members not attending lunch are requested as a courtesy to staff to advise Meetings Administrator well in advance.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____