

Minutes of September Ordinary Council Meeting 2015

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 21st September 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
M. T. Daly A/ Director of Services
D. Storey, Senior Executive Officer
M. Murtagh, Senior Executive Officer
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
P. Donnelly, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllrs. J. Green

Minute No. 205/15

The Cathaoirleach extended hearty congratulations to Councillor Jennifer Green and Councillor Alan Cassidy on the recent birth of their baby daughter.

Minute No. 206/15

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey
And resolved:-

That the minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on Monday 20th July 2015 be confirmed.

Minute No. 207/15

Minutes for Information

The following minutes were noted by the members.

- Borough District of Drogheda 6th July 2015
- Corporate Policy Group 10th July 2015
- Housing SPC 25th May 2015
- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd July 2015
- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th July 2015
- Planning and Environment SPC 10th June 2015

Minute No. 208/15

Committee Reports

Corporate Policy Group

The Cathaoirleach Cllr. Peter Savage presented a report on the Corporate Policy Corporate Group meeting held on Friday 11th September 2015.

Housing Community & Emergency Services SPC

Cllr. Imelda Munster Chair of the Strategic Policy Committee presented a report on the meeting of the committee held on 20th July 2015.

Planning and Environment SPC

Cllr. Richie Culhane Chair of the Strategic Policy Committee presented a report on the meeting of the committee held on 9th September 2015.

Minute No. 209/15

Monthly Management Report

The Members noted the report from the Chief Executive dated 7th September 2015. The Chief Executive outlined that the report format had been reconfigured and would now be presented as a composite report to include the Financial, Housing and Community, Planning and Environmental reports.

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The Cathaoirleach invited questions in regard to the report content. Matters pertaining to the Housing and Community report were addressed by the Director of Services and the Senior Executive Officer.

Cllr. Sharkey requested that progress in regard to Circular 42/2015 in respect of the Libraries be included in the Chief Executives Report.

The matter of updates in respect of Infrastructure programmes would be addressed to ensure same was adequately addressed at Municipal District level.

Cllr. Keelan sought clarification in regard to an earlier motion of his calling for the naming of a piece of local infrastructure in honour of Cumann na mBan

Minute No. 210/15

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were recorded in respect of the following.

- To Colette Moss, HR, on the death of her mother Mary (May) McDonnell
- To the family of the late Mickey McGahon, Gateway Employee, Ardee.
- To Frank Pentony, Director of Services, on the death of his mother Marie Pentony.
- To Sinead Maguire, Water Services, on the death of her father Gerard McKernan
- To the family of the late Gerry Berrill, retired employee Dundalk Town Council.
- To Eugene Mulholland, Head of Information Systems, on the death of his wife Marie Mulholland.
- To Peter McCoy, Planning, on the death of his mother Annie McCoy. Mother-in-Law of Riona McCoy, Housing, and Noel Waring, Operations.
- To David Dunne, Water Services Section on the death of his mother.

Minute No. 211/15

Local Property Tax - Local Adjustment Factor for 2016

To consider by resolution the setting of a local adjustment factor in accordance with the Finance (Local Property Tax) Act 2012 as amended

The Chief Executive, in referring to her recommendations in the report circulated for the members consideration in respect of the Local Property Tax, set out the impact any reduction in the property tax would have in regard to the delivery of services.

Proposed By: Cllr R. Culhane

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey

That having considered the Chief Executives Report that the Local Property Tax be maintain at last year's rate i.e. a reduction of 1 ½ % (1.5%)

Amendment

Proposed By: Cllr I. Munster

Seconded by: Cllr. T. Sharkey

That the Property Tax rate be reduced by the maximum amount of 15%

Following a lengthy discussion on the matter a roll call vote was taken

Amendment

For: Cllrs. Byrne, Cassidy, Corrigan, Cunningham, Flood, Godfrey, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Sharkey
Total eleven (11)

Against: Cllrs. Bell, Butler, Culhane, Dearey, Doyle, Keelan, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Reilly, Savage, Smith, Tully
Total Thirteen (13)

Abstain: Cllrs. Breathnach, Callan, Tenanty, Yore
Total Four (4)

Absent: Cllr. Green
Total One (1)

The Amendment was defeated.

Motion

For: Cllrs. Bell, Butler, Culhane, Dearey, Doyle, Keelan, Markey, McGahon, Minogue, Reilly, Savage, Smith, Tully
Total Thirteen (13)

Against: Cllrs. Byrne, Cassidy, Corrigan, Cunningham, Flood, Godfrey, Loughran, McGeough, Meenan, Munster, Sharkey
Total eleven (11)

Abstain: Cllrs. Breathnach, Callan, Tenanty, Yore
Total Four (4)

Absent: Cllr. Green
Total One (1)

The motion was carried and a local adjustment factor of one and a half percent reduction in the local property tax was confirmed for the year 2016.

Minute No. 212/15

Local Economic and Community Plan

Members were given an update on the process of formulating the Local Economic and Community Plan. Members were encouraged to promote the participation of members of the community in the formulation of the plan.

Minute No. 213/15

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. D. Breathnach

Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

And resolved:-

That standing orders be suspended as per Standing Order number 24 to permit the business of the meeting continue until 2.00 pm.

Minute No. 214/15

Draft Heritage and Biodiversity Plans

To consider the draft Heritage and Biodiversity Plans and to agree that the plans proceed to the public consultation phase.

Proposed by: Cllr. Declan Breathnach

Seconded by: Cllr. Colm Markey

And resolved:

That the draft plans proceed to the public consultation phase.

Minute No. 215/15

County Development Plan

To Consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions received to proposed amendments to the Draft Louth Council Development Plan 2015-2021 (Section 12 (8) Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended) –

On the proposal of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Peter Savage and seconded by Cllr. Godfrey that the matter be deferred to a special meeting to be held on Monday 28th September at 5.30pm.

Minute No. 216/15

Draft Polling Scheme 2015 for the County of Louth

To consider the draft polling scheme as circulated with the agenda prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Act 1992 (as amended), the Electoral (Polling Schemes) Regulations 2005 and the County of Louth Local Electoral Areas Order, 2014 (S.I. No. 58)

Proposed By: Cllr Tomas Sharkey

Seconded by: Cllr. D. Breathnach

And resolved:

That having considered the matter to confirm the Draft Polling Scheme 2015 for the County of Louth.

Minute No. 217/15

Allocation of Members Community Grants - September 2015

Proposed By: Cllr. Paul Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan
And resolved:

To confirm the allocation of the fifty seven (57) Members Community Grants as circulated with the agenda.

Minute No. 218/15

Management & Staff Changes

The Chief Executive advised the members of the following changes in Management and staff positions.

Paddy Donnelly was appointed as Director of Services with effect from 31st August 2015. He will assume responsibility for Operations and Water Services from 6th October.

Emer O’Gorman will take up office with the Council on 6th October as Director of Services with responsibility for Corporate & Customer Services, European Cross Border and sustainable energy, & Environmental Services.

Frank Pentony, Director of Services will from 6th October assume responsibility for Infrastructure, Planning and Economic Development.

Thomas McEvoy will commence as Head of the Local Enterprise Office on Monday 28th September.

Other changes in staff will be advised to the members following the completion of a series of interviews currently ongoing.

Mary T Daly was thanked for her role as Acting Director of Services for the past fifteen months.

Minute No. 219/15

Conference and Events

Proposed By: Cllr. Peter Savage
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

And resolved:

To confirm the attendance of Members at conferences approved by the CPG and listed with the agenda who have recorded their request to attend in the Conference and events register.

The Cathaoirleach encouraged the members to attend the LAMA event which deals with the new Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015 and clarified for members that this is a training event.

Minute No. 220/15

Motions for Other Councils

The following notices of Motion from other Councils were noted.

Leitrim County Council 28th July x 2

Clare County Council 17th August

Monaghan County Council 13th July

Cork County Council email dated 14th July

Municipal District of Carrickmacross - Castleblayney 15th July, 13th July

Minute No. 221/15

Notice of Question

Cllr. Tomas Sharkey

"To ask the Chief Executive of Louth County Council how many properties that are in the Long Term Leasing, HAP Scheme or RAS are owned by individual members of Staff of Louth County Council, if this matter is required to be declared by the property owner, and how many members of staff are in question?"

REPLY:

Louth County Council has agreements in place with six members of staff for a total of six properties under such schemes. Where required the appropriate declarations have been completed.

Minute No. 222/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed By: Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Jim Tenanty

That Louth County Council carry out an inspection on Fane River from waterworks at Cavan Hill to ascertain what is causing brown effluent discharge into Fane River and why is there eels in the water and fish stock down? What substance is used in the cleaning of pipes in Cavan hill and is this off loaded into River Fane causing the pollution?

Reply:

The Cavan Hill water treatment plant is not discharging effluent into the Fane river. All process wastes are retained on site and disposed of to landfill. This plant is closely monitored and the Council is satisfied that there has been no accidental discharge to the Fane river. No evidence of pollution was detected during recent inspections carried out by both the Council and Inland Fisheries Ireland personnel. Queries in relation to fish stock levels in the river should be addressed to Inland Fisheries Ireland

Minute No. 223/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed By: Cllr Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Jim Tenanty

What Draft Protocol has CPG agreed upon as per May County Council Minutes Item 7 in relation to Civic Awards and when will Civic Awards for People of Louth be awarded? Why is there delay in organising Awards for some people/groups and not others?

REPLY:

Civic Awards Protocol has yet to be discussed by the CPG. This will be addressed in the coming weeks. This will then address all award scenarios.

Minute No. 224/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed By: Cllr D. Breathnach

Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

That the Minister for Finance recognize the disadvantaged position of Republic of Ireland based Hauliers as against their Northern or English Counterparts in relation to H.G.V Levies which range from €64 -€100 per month apart altogether from the higher rates of Tax and Insurance and take steps in the budget to at least equalize the playing field.

Reply: This is a matter for the members

Minute No. 225/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed By: Cllr D. Breathnach

Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

That this Council calls on the minister for Environment to accept the current flat rate tax on all Vehicle road tax regardless of whether a person opts to pay Quarterly , Bi annually or annually. Furthermore that similar policy is adopted and promoted across all state departments where option to pay in installments currently exists.

Reply:

This is a matter for the members

Minute No. 226/14

Correspondence

The following Correspondence was noted.

LAMA - Autumn Training Seminar 9th & 10th October 2015

AILG - Local Government Reform 1st & 2nd October 2015

Letter from Minister Lynch 18th August 2015 re Peer Walk Programme

Letter from Northern & Western Regional Assembly, 27th July 2015, re Designated Urban Centre Grant Scheme (BMW Region)

Letter from Minister Humphreys, Sept 2015, re Minute of Silence in memory of all those who suffered loss during the Great Famine

Minute No. 227/15

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: _____