

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council July 2016

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 18th July 2016

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Bell

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, M. Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
J. McGuinness Director of Services
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services
F. Pentony, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
F. Downes, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. R. Culhane

Minute No. 111/16

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully

And resolved:

That the minutes of the AGM meeting held on Monday, 20th June 2016 be confirmed.

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. C. Keelan

And resolved:

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday, 20th June 2016 be confirmed.

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Minute No. 112/16

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Minute No. 113/16

Chairman's Report – Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 10th June 2016

Members considered and agreed the draft agenda for the July monthly meeting. Councillors Community Grants (No. 17) were noted and recommended for approval as were Conferences & Events (No. 4) as presented. Members agreed to invite Patricia King, General Secretary of Irish Congress of Trade Unions to address the members at the October council meeting. The statutory notice re local property tax has been published and a press statement has also issued explaining LPT and seeking recommendations from the public.

The members of CPG would welcome Fáilte Ireland to attend a council meeting to give an update on Louth's position in Ireland's Ancient East.

Minute No. 114/16

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda & Annual Meeting 13th June 2016

Corporate Policy Group 10th June 2016

Infrastructure, European & Cross Border SPC 28th April 2016

Municipal District of Ardee & Annual Meeting 2nd June 2016

Municipal District of Dundalk & Annual Meeting 7th June 2016

Minute No. 115/16

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 30th June 2016.

Queries in regard to the report were addressed by the Chief Executive, Members of the Management Team, and Senior Staff. Issues addressed included:-

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- Ard Dealgan – J. McGuinness advised that there was no further update other than the council has put a bid on the property. The costs of acquiring the site will be recouped from the housing association through the CAF scheme.
- Toilets at beaches – P. Donnelly advised that caretakers are in place but due to the level of anti-social behavior and abuse of the facilities the council may consider closing the toilet facilities due to the difficulty managing same.
- E. O’Gorman advised that the Council is in regular contact with our colleagues in Fingal with regard to emerging issues from heavy rainfall and the closure of beaches resulting from same. A funding application is in at present to try and enhance predictability with regard to rainfall. The placement of notices re. closure of beaches will be reviewed to ensure that a notice is placed at all entrances to the beach.
- Drogheda Port – the Chief Executive advised that the process is set in motion and is dependent on various government Ministers. The appointment of temporary directors is provided for in legislation – the Minister may appoint temporary directors. The legislation prohibits a Councillor from being a director of the Port Company. A specific list of prohibitions to be circulated to Councillors. B. Woods advised that the shareholding in Drogheda Port is not substantial and will be shown in appendix 8 in the accounts as a company that the Council has an interest in.

Minute No. 116/16

Cllr. M. Yore excluded herself from the meeting as she knows the individuals concerned (Ref Section 183 Notice)

Minute No. 117/16

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of land at 9 St. Mary’s Villas, Dublin Road, Drogheda to Anthony Yore and Ann Yore

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

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 17th June 2016 to confirm the disposal of premises 9 St. Mary’s Villas, Dublin Road, Drogheda, Co. Louth for a consideration of €400.

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Minute No. 118/16

**Housing (Local Authority Loans) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 145 of 2009)
2016 Capital Allocations for Publicly Funded Housing Loans**

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Dearey
And resolved:

That having considered the notice in the matter dated 28th June 2016 to confirm that this Council, through the provision of the Local Government Act 2001 agrees to drawdown €3,200,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the funding of Housing Loans for private house purchases and loans under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme and the Incremental Purchase Scheme.

Minute No. 119/16

Presentation of Report on Peace IV Action Plan – Louth

Aibhlín Mc Crann briefed the members on progress to date and advised that they are striving for a results-focused Action Plan where the projects/initiatives are based on tangible outputs and measurable change within the lifetime of the plan.

The Peace IV Partnership themes link with LECP community goals:

Children & Young People	Nurturing Children and Young People
Shared Spaces and Services	Prosperous, Inclusive Communities and Places
Building Positive Relations	Strong, Safe and Flourishing Communities

There was a call for submissions and harvesting of ideas which will be assessed within PEACE IV framework. The closing date for receipt of ideas / projects was Friday 8 July. However no good ideas will be refused at this point. To date 64 ideas have been submitted and these are based on the three themes mentioned above.

Minute No. 120/16

Presentation on Louth Family Carers Support Group

Ciaran Briscoe spoke on behalf of the Louth Family Carers Support Group, which is a new initiative in County Louth. They were set up on a voluntary basis to fill a void and one of the main objectives of the group is 'to help family carers cope'. They are committed to establishing a network to obtain information about the supports available, creating a break from the caring situation and where carers can learn from one another. The 2011 Census figures showed that there was in excess of 4,700 family carers in Louth.

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They don't have premises but meetings take place in the Barbican in Drogheda and Tesco Extra in Dundalk. It's at the infancy stages at present - they are trying to get established and would like to get a website set up. They are currently not part of Family Carers Ireland as their permission would be required for meetings and notices, etc.

The Chief Executive welcomed the group and commended them on the work they do and said that a wide range of people do excellent work and are aiding elderly and sick people being able to remain in their own homes. She was happy to facilitate the group using the council meeting as a platform to get word out about their work, getting increased awareness and being visible in the community.

The members praised the work the group was doing and congratulated them for setting up the Louth group. A number of Councillors pledged their support for the excellent work they do on a voluntary basis.

Minute No. 121/16

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Dearey

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler

And resolved:

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events listed within the agenda.

Minute No. 122/16

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. K. Callan

Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 17) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

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Minute No. 123/16

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were also extended to:

- To the family, friends of Stan Corrigan, father of Cllr. E. Corrigan.
- To Pat Finn, Senior Engineer on the death of his sister Ms. Mary Finn.
- To Christopher Brabazon, General Operative Operations on the death of his wife Mrs. Eileen Brabazon (née Murphy).

Minute No. 124/16

Congratulations were extended to Ms. Ruth O'Connell from LMFM on being one of the winners of the 2016 Law Society's Justice Media Awards.

Minute No. 125/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Doyle

"That Louth County Council request that the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross, retain the Sport Capital Grants for 2016"

Reply:

Members supported the motion but amended it to include Patrick O'Donovan T.D. Minister for Tourism and Sport.

Minute No. 126/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. T. Sharkey
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood

"That Louth County Council, noting the outcome of the Referendum on membership of the European Union, recognises:

- The huge progress that has been made since the Good Friday Agreement in removing barriers between communities North and South and improving island-wide co-operation and integration.

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- That a majority of voters in the North of Ireland voted to remain within the European Union.
- That a new EU border in Ireland would be disruptive for trade, damaging for the economy and services North and South; and cause hardship for businesses, communities, farmers and workers, particularly in the border region.

Calls on the Irish Government to:

- Work with the Northern Executive to ensure that the democratic wishes of the people of the North of Ireland to remain within the EU is respected and facilitated.
- Ensure that an island-wide solution is found that ensures that the interests of communities, workers and employers North and South, as well as the achievements of the Peace Process are safeguarded."

Reply:

The members supported the motion due to the implications Brexit could have on Louth as a border county, especially regarding SEUPB funding and the Good Friday Agreement. It may have a major impact on the work that the council does and the negotiations need to be proactive and focused.

Minute No. 127/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore

"In light of the recent decision in the UK to leave the EU, I am calling on Louth County Council not to award contracts to UK based contractors that extend past July 2018. This includes contractors based in Northern Ireland".

Reply

The awarding of contracts is an executive function. All contracts are awarded in line with National and EU law and Regulations.

The Chief Executive advised that the awarding of contracts is an Executive Function and that she is legally obliged to give advice on Reserved Functions. She informed the Councillors that she would not have any regard to this motion, if passed, as she is legally obliged to adhere to procurement law at the date of going to tender or awarding of contracts. The Chief Executive advised that she would provide updates to Councillors regarding the legal implications of Brexit and procurement as they become available.

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Proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey
Seconded by Cllr. E. Corrigan

“To reject Cllr. M. Doyle’s notice of motion as worded on the agenda”.

A vote for taken, the result of which was as follows:

For Cllr. M. Doyle’s notice of motion (Item ID 1709) – 5 votes
Against Cllr. M. Doyle’s notice of motion (Item ID 1709) – 14 votes
Absent - 10

Minute No. 128/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. C. Keelan
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan

"That this Council revisit motion 907/15 adopted last year which called for a piece of infrastructure in the County to be named after Cumann na mBan mirroring actions in neighbouring counties particularly given this year as the centenary of 1916."

REPLY:

The Chief Executive advised members that it is a matter for the members to identify somewhere or some piece of infrastructure and to forward same to E. O’Gorman and a list will be brought back to the members for approval. She also advised that bridges are not in our ownership.

Minute No. 129/16

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the members.

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That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date:

19th September 2016

Cathaoirleach:

PDP Ball

Meetings Administrator:

Alan Henry

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