

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council May 2016

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16th May 2016

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Savage

Members: Councillors: P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, J. Loughran, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, 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. Donnelly, Director of Services
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
G. Kelly, Senior Engineer
Mary T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer

Apologies: Cllrs. R Culhane & T. Sharkey

Minute No. 66/16

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. F. Godfrey
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 18th April 2016 be confirmed.

Minute No. 67/16

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 4th April 2016

Corporate Policy Group 8th April 2016

Municipal District of Ardee 7th April 2016

Municipal District of Dundalk 5th April 2016

Housing, Community Planning & Emergency Services SPC 18th January 2016

Minute No. 68/16

Chairman's Report – Corporate Policy Group Meeting held on 7th May 2016

The Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P. Savage presented the report. Members considered and agreed the draft Agenda for the May Monthly Meeting. Councillors Community Grants (No. 39) were noted and recommended for approval as were Conferences & Events (No.3) as presented. Members discussed a representation from Louth Family Carers Support Group and it was agreed that group would make a presentation to the July Council Meeting.

Minute No. 69/16

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 6th May 2016.

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

- The issue of rate arrears was raised again with the suggestion of an amnesty being needed. Ms. B. Woods indicated that this would necessitate a change in legislation.
- Civic Awards – Ms. E. O’Gorman confirmed that the document had been finalised and would be brought to the June Corporate Policy Group meeting.

- Woodlands Park – queries raised regarding the proposed refurbishment of the site. J. McGuinness outlined the current position with approval in principle in place to redevelop the site with a final costing to be submitted to the Department of Environment for final approval. Further discussion took place on the ECSR report where J. McGuinness clarified the legal position with regard to traveller accommodation.

Ms. J. Martin outlined her desire to re-establish the Inter Agency Traveller working group in order to progress the broader issues concerning the travelling community.

- Pay by Weight – New regulations come into effect on the 1st of July. Charging regime to be determined by the waste operators. The role of Louth County Council is in the enforcement of the Waste Management Act with regard to the proper disposal of household rubbish.
- Housing policy – Noted the emphasis of the provision of social housing as a priority in the Programme for Government. Ms. J. Martin outlined a recent meeting with the Minister for Housing, An Taoiseach and the CCMA and the priorities contained within the programme.

Minute No. 70/16

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of plot of ground adjoining No. 27 Dawsons Demesne, Ardee

Proposed by Cllr. D. Minogue

Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly

And resolved:

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 4th May 2016 to confirm the disposal of plot of ground adjoining No. 27 Dawsons Demesne, Ardee for a consideration of €100

Minute No. 71/16

Section 85 Agreement with Kildare County Council

Proposed by Cllr. O. Tully

Seconded by Cllr. M. Dearey

And resolved:

To approve the Section 85 agreement between Louth County Council and Kildare County Council in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 2001 for the Leinster Bridges Expansion Joint Replacement Contract - 2015 as per document circulated in the agenda dated 9th May 2016

Minute No. 72/16

Agree a date for the Annual General Meeting

The date of the 20th June 2016 was unanimously agreed by the members

Minute No. 73/16

**Annual Financial Statement 2014 & Auditors Report
Annual Financial Statement 2015**

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Savage
Seconded by Cllr. L. Reilly
And resolved:**

That the Annual Financial Statements for 2014 & 2015 having been considered by the members be confirmed

Minute No. 74/16

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

**Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:**

That the Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy prepared under Section 35 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 be adopted

Minute No. 75/16

Estate Management Policy

Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved:

That the Estate Management Statement prepared under Section 9 of the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1992 & Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2014 Part 6 be adopted

Minute No. 76/16

Ratify Public Participation Network (PPN) members of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly

Seconded by Cllr. F. Godfrey

And resolved

To ratify the following members of the Public Participation Network (PPN) to the (LCDC)

Larry Magnier

Voluntary Representative

Eva Beirne

Voluntary Representative

Kevin Moran

Social Inclusion Representative

Geordie McAteer

Social Inclusion Representative

Minute No. 77/16

Louth County Council Arts Awards 1st Round 2016

Proposed by Cllr. M. Doyle

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

And resolved:

To approve Louth County Council Arts Awards 1st Round 2016 as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 78/16

Conferences and Events

**Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by Cllr. P. Smith
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. 79/16

Allocation of Members Community Grants

**Proposed by Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by Cllr. P. Smith
And resolved:**

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 39) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 80/16

Votes of Sympathy

- To Eugene McManus, Economic Development, Infrastructure & Compliance on the death of his mother Mrs. Margaret McManus.
- To Paul Keegan, Operations & Local Services on the death of his partner and Mr. Benny McDonagh, Operations & Local Services on the death of his sister, Mrs. Olive McDonagh.
- To Fiona Doherty, Housing & Community, Libraries & Emergency Services on the death of her father Mr. John Doherty.
- Family of Larry O'Rourke, Former Ganger with Dundalk Town Council

Minute No. 81/16

Congratulations

An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Savage expressed his sincere thanks to Ms. B. Fennell, County Librarian, and offered his congratulations to her on the excellent Commemorative Centenary Programme in County Louth. This sentiment received unanimous support from the members.

Minute No. 82/16

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan**

"That LCC install CCTV cameras in dumping blackspots across our County and 'name and shame' dumping offenders"

Reply:

This is an operational matter; however, Louth County Council litter wardens deploy CCTV cameras at litter blackspots in the County in response to observed spikes in littering activity.

The wardens have in general been able to identify individuals for prosecution from these CCTV images, or from other data gathered at such sites.

Cllr Yore sought a breakdown of prosecutions for illegal dumping in the last year and was advised that this information would be provided

Minute No. 83/16

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by Cllr. M.Yore
Seconded by Cllr. P. Bell**

"That LCC write to Dept of Education requesting that cyberbullying unit to be set up within Dept to address the serious issues our young people face in relation to cyberbullying"

Reply:

Members agreed to write to the Dept in respect of this motion

Minute No. 84/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. J. McGahon

Seconded by Cllr. K. Callan

"That Louth County Council reverse it's current embargo on the provision of additional public lighting in rural areas"

Reply:

The public lighting maintenance budget for Louth County Council is €1.825.570 or 21.3% of the total roads budget in 2016. The provision of additional public lighting in any location requires capital expenditure and adds to the maintenance costs of the public lighting infrastructure. Additional lights will always be required to deal with dark areas within the existing public lighting infrastructure within heavily populated areas or extensions to existing systems resulting from development on the edges. In addition the taking over of estates results in further public lighting costs being incurred by the Council and reducing further the budget available for necessary road works.

The provision of public lighting in rural areas was often associated with one-of lights provided to serve one or two houses, and was unsustainable on a number of grounds. The community benefit from such lights was negligible as only one or two families benefited, and one-of lights are seen as a traffic hazard as vehicles move from dark to light to dark again.

The provision of new lights has to be critically evaluated in each case and where sufficient community benefit is identified then lights can be provided, whether in urban or rural areas, subject to funding being available into the future. The provision of any lights is a commitment to expenditure ad infinitum.

The proposer sought clarification with regard to the previous re-siting of a light using Members Allocations. Mr P. Donnelly clarified with regard to not increasing the Council's energy consumption costs.

Minute No. 85/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Savage

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

"We the Members of Louth County Council call on the Minister for Health to reverse the decision to locate the National Children's Hospital at St. James Hospital and locate the new Children's Hospital for all the children of Ireland at Connolly Hospital, Blanchardstown. The Connolly site offers 145 acres, vast space for expansion, and easier access for all children and extensive parking. The co-location with Connolly Hospital and the new Rotunda Maternity Hospital will result in better clinical outcomes. It will be cheaper and faster to build than on the St. James site"

Reply:

The Motion received unanimous support and it was agreed to write to the Dept in respect of this motion

Minute No. 86/16

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

"That this Council recognises that the LCDC holds at least an equivalent status to any of the four SPCs of this local authority and accordingly insists that the minutes of same committee should be issued to all members as is the case for all of the four SPCs at a similar regular basis."

Reply:

The Local Community Development Committee was created by Section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. Importantly in this legislation which includes subsequent Regulations and Guidelines the LCDC, is confirmed as a Committee, like the CPG and SPCs. However, unlike the CPG and SPCs, the LCDC is independent from the local authority in the performance of its functions. While these functions will be determined by

Government from time to time as provided for under Local Government Act, how those functions are carried out and any decisions to be made by the LCDC when carrying out those functions are solely a matter for the LCDC.

This independence is provided for explicitly in sections 49A(2) and 128B(8) of the 2001 Act. Adopted Minutes of LCDC Meetings are normally available on the LCDC section of the website

The proposer set out the background to the request. Mr. J. McGuinness set out the very clear position in legislation with regard to the LCDC being an independent committee and not a committee of the Council.

Minute No. 87/16

Notice of Question

Proposed by Cllr. J. McGahon

"Will Louth County Council provide a full breakdown of funding they have provided to each individual Tidy Town Group in County Louth for the years 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015."

REPLY:

Amenity Grants Tidy Towns				
Organisation Name	Grant 2012	Grant 2013	Grant 2014	Grant 2015
Annagassan Tidy Towns (TADCO)	€1,500.00	€1,250.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Ardee Tidy Towns	€3,250.00	€3,250.00	€2,800.00	€2,800.00

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Baltray Tidy Towns	€550.00	€400.00	€500.00	€500.00
Blackrock Tidy Towns	€2,525.00	€2,525.00	€2,200.00	€2,200.00
Carlingford Tidy Towns	€1,375.00	€2,525.00	€1,100.00	€1,100.00
C'bellingham / Kilsaran Env. Group/TT	€1,700.00	€1,400.00	€1,125.00	€1,250.00
Clogherhead Development Group/TT	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	€1,350.00	€1,350.00
Collon Development Association/TT	€1,700.00	€1,500.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Drogheda Tidy Towns	€450.00	nil	nil	€1,000.00
Dromiskin Tidy Towns	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	€1,350.00	€1,350.00
Dunleer Tidy Towns	€1,975.00	€1,950.00	€1,650.00	€1,650.00
Grange & District	€750.00	€1,000.00	€900.00	€1,000.00

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R/A & Tidy Towns				
Greenore Residents & Tidy Towns	€1,300.00	€1,250.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Kilcurry Tidy Towns	€700.00	€900.00	€800.00	€800.00
Kilkerley Tidy Towns	€700.00	€900.00	€850.00	€850.00
Knockbridge Tidy Towns	€2,500.00	€2,300.00	€2,000.00	€2,000.00
Louth Village Tidy Towns	€1,275.00	€1,275.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Omeath Tidy Towns	€1,500.00	€1,500.00	€1,350.00	€1,350.00
Philipstown Tidy Towns	nil	€300.00	€450.00	€450.00
Reaghstown Tidy Towns	€1,300.00	€1,250.00	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
Stabannon Tidy Towns	€850.00	€950.00	€850.00	€850.00
Tallanstown Tidy	€2,500.00	€2,300.00	€2,000.00	€2,000.00

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Towns				
Tullyallen Tidy Towns	€850.00	€850.00	€750.00	€750.00
Monasterboice Tourism & Tidy Towns	nil	€400.00	€400.00	€400.00
Termonfeckin Community Action Group / Tidy Towns	€700.00	nil	nil	nil

Minute No. 88/16

Notice of Question

Proposed by Cllr. T. Sharkey

How many LT (third class) roads and what is the total distance of these roads in county Louth? What steps have been taken to assess the condition and need for maintenance on these roads in recent years?

REPLY:

There are 1,756 road segments, as opposed to roads, classified as local tertiary roads, with a total length of 394km. Housing estates are included in this category and most roads are split into a number of segments depending on the length of the road and the number of junctions on the road.

All roads are inspected regularly by the Area staff in addition to when they respond to representations from elected members or the public. There is an ongoing surveying regime to monitor the general road condition of each class of road, with a percentage of each class of road being surveyed periodically, dependant on class of road. This is in order to build up a

national picture of the state of the roads infrastructure and to make a case for funding.

The condition of our road network and particularly local tertiary roads, is deteriorating due

Minute No. 89/16

Correspondence

Correspondence as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the members

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: _____

Cathaoirleach: _____

Meetings Administrator: _____