

Minutes of Ordinary meeting of Council April 2017

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 10th April 2017

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. P. Bell

Members: Councillors: M. Butler, J. Byrne, T. Byrne, K. Callan, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, R. Culhane, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, J. Cassidy-Green, C. Keelan, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
J. McGuinness Director of Services
E. O’Gorman, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
F. Pentony, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
M.T. Daly, Senior Executive Officer
A. Lawler, Senior Executive Officer
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator
J. Lawrence A/ Senior Executive Officer
A. Abbott-King, Senior Planner
P. Finn, Senior Engineer
A. Sheridan, Administrative Officer
E. Daly, A/Senior Staff Officer
L. Flynn, Staff Officer

Minute No. 63/17

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Tenanty
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully
And resolved:

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That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20th March 2017 be confirmed

Minute No. 64/17

Matters arising

- Members were informed that the report in relation to Buttergate would be circulated as soon as it was completed

Minute No. 65/17

Minutes for noting

The following minutes were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 9th March 2017

Borough District of Drogheda 6th March 2017

Municipal District of Dundalk 7th March 2017

Municipal District of Ardee 2nd March 2017

Minute No. 66/17

Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Management Report dated 7th April, 2017

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

- It was agreed to provide members with an update in relation to the Nearly Zero Energy Project.
- It was agreed to report to Dundalk Municipal District about the plans in relation to the twinning arrangement between Pikeville, Kentucky and Dundalk.
- It was agreed to circulate members with details of the grants allocated to Louth County Council under LIHAF.
- The need for action to be taken in order to address the derelict state of Bayview House was highlighted.

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- It was agreed to provide more detailed information on the Taking in Charge Report about the stage of the application and the value of the bond in place.
- It was agreed to provide members with the cost of the provision of homeless emergency accommodation.
- The need for a community initiative/information campaign in relation to proper disposal of domestic waste was raised, when discussing the problem of the disposing of this type of waste in on-street litter bins.
- It was requested that the monthly report detail actions taken by the Council under Section 13 of the Roads Act, 1993.
- The need to ensure all festivals in the county received a fair share of financial support was raised.

Minute No.67/17

Publicly funded Housing Loans

Proposed by: Cllr. P. Bell
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully
And resolved:

"That this Council through the provisions of the Local Government Act 2001, agrees to the following total maximum drawdown of €6,500,000 for 2017 from the Housing Finance Agency for the funding of Housing Loans for Private House Purchases / Constructions and for Housing Loans under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme"

Minute No. 68/17

Amenity Grants Process

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Doyle
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Flood
And resolved:

Members noted & agreed the content of the report as presented

Minute No. 69/17

Allocation of Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Yore
And resolved:

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations (No. 6) as listed on the report circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 70/17

Conferences and Events

Proposed by: Cllr. J. McGahon
Seconded by: Cllr. K. Callan
And resolved:

To approve the attendance of members recorded in the Conference & Events Register at such Conferences and Events (No.5) listed within the agenda & endorsed by the Corporate Policy Group on 30th March 2017.

Minute No. 71/17

Presentation – Union of Students in Ireland

Annie Hoey, Aaron Lawless and Michael Kerrigan from Union of Students of Ireland gave a presentation in relation to the funding of third level education and answered questions from the members

Minute No. 72/17

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended by the members to the families of:-

Daragh Breen
Gráinne Taffe

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Maurice Brown
Members of the Coptic Orthodox Church

Sympathies were expressed and tributes paid to
Andy Califf
Tom Savage
Martin McGuinness
Mark Duffy

Minute No. 73/17

Presentation – Implementation of Choice Based Lettings

Aoife Lawler, SEO, Housing gave a presentation to the members in relation to the introduction of Choice Based Letting and answered questions from the members. While the system was broadly welcomed concerns were raised in relation to the capacity of people with difficulty with reading or IT to use the system.

Minute No. 74/17

Suspension of Standing Orders

Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by Cllr. M. Doyle
And resolved:-

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

Minute No. 75/17

Notice of Motion

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

That Louth County Council initiates the process to vary the Dundalk and Environs Development Plan 2009-2015 to allow for the rezoning of green amenity spaces in residential areas from Residential 1 to Recreation Amenity and Open Space.

A Roll Call vote was taken

For: Cllrs. P. Bell, M. Butler, J. Byrne, E. Coffey, E. Corrigan, T. Cunningham, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, F. Godfrey, J. Green, C. Keelan, P. McGeough, K. Meenan, D. Minogue, L. Reilly, **Total fifteen (15)**

Absent: Cllrs. T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, K. Flood, C. Markey, J. McGahon, P. Savage, T. Sharkey, P. Smith, J. Tenanty, O. Tully, A. Watters, M. Yore **Total fourteen (14)**

In the course of the debate members were informed that it was not common practice to zone open spaces in housing estates and that there weren't sufficient staff resources to implement the motion.

The motion was passed

Minute No. 76/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. F. Godfrey

Seconded by: Cllr. E. Coffey

That Louth County Council provides land for community-based activities such as a playground and community centre for the village of Termonfeckin.

With a population that has more than doubled from 653 in 2006 to 1,443 as per the 2011 census, leisure facilities and community infrastructure are desperately needed. As part of planning conditions, such facilities should be included from the outset, but must be created now to address this need. The village has seen a surge of young families in recent years, with the expansion of the schools in both Termonfeckin and Sandpit. There is a huge need for these youngsters to be catered for.

A tract of land now in the hands of NAMA, would be an ideal location as it is close to the primary school and easily accessible from both the Drogheda and Baltray roads.

Reply:

The Council are currently only funding upgrades of existing playgrounds. In recent years we have encouraged local groups to develop their own proposals including funding on the basis that the Council will take over completed sites

The response was noted by the members

Minute No. 77/17

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Bell

"That Louth County Council request the government to progress the Coroner's Bill 2015 as a matter of urgency, and to ensure that the Coroner's Bill will provide for an automatic inquest into every maternal death in the state"

Members agreed the motion

Minute No. 78/17

Notice of Question

From Cllr. F. Godfrey

Can Louth County Council provide a breakdown of illegal dumping and littering in County Louth over the past 5 years, between detection, prosecution and cost to the Local Authority"?

REPLY:

'A report on the matter will be collated and circulated to the members as soon as is practical.'

Response was noted by the members

Minute No.79/17

Notices of Motions from other Councils

Notices of Motions from other Councils as circulated with the Agenda were noted by the members

Minute No. 80/17

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: _____