

Minutes of Council Meeting March 2020

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in An Tain Theatre, Town Hall, Dundalk on Monday 23rd March 2020

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Liam Reilly

Members: Councillors: Paul Bell, Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Colm Markey, John McGahon, Pearse McGeough, Erin McGreehan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters,

Apologies: Cllrs. Kevin Callan, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Paddy McQuillan, Dolores Minogue, Pio Smith, Maeve Yore

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive
F. Pentony, Director of Services
P. Donnelly, Director of Services
C. Duff, Director of Services
B. Woods, Head of Finance
J. Kelly, Senior Planner
A. Sherry, Meetings Administrator

At the outset, Members commended the efforts of the Council in relation to service provision during the COVID19 crisis and some expressed the view that the Council meeting should not be taking place, or should only be attended by the minimum number of Councillors possible. It was agreed to investigate the possibility of meetings being conducted online

Minute No. 38/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 19th February 2020 be confirmed

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Minute No. 39/20

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. M. Butler
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Special Meeting held on 24th February 2020 be confirmed

Minute No. 40/20

Minutes for noting

Corporate Policy Group 5th February 2020

Borough District of Drogheda 3rd February 2020

Municipal District of Dundalk 4th February 2020

Municipal District of Ardee 6th February 2020

Joint Committee Meeting of Newry, Mourne & Down /Louth County Council 4th December 2019

Minute No. 41/20

Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach reported that the meeting of the CPG was held Wednesday 11th March 2020. The draft agenda for the March meeting was considered and agreed and Councillors Community Grants were approved and the conferences were also approved. Members noted the draft protocols in relation to Civic Awards and the role of the Cathaoirleach. Members were informed that a visit to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to review their CRM system had taken place and options were now being considered. Members were informed that the casting of Seanad votes was being facilitated on Friday, 20th March.

Minute No. 42/20

Consideration of the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received on the Issues Paper

Members were informed of the statutory timescale in relation to the preparation of the county development plan and it was suggested that a schedule of statutory meetings should be produced to facilitate the members planning around possible holidays.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Bell, seconded by E. Coffey and agreed by the members to proceed to the next phase of the process

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Minute No. 43/20

Monthly Management Report

The need to meet with Irish Water in relation to Staleen treatment plant when it was safe to do so was emphasized.

It was agreed to revert back to the members in relation to whether or not the SIRO gigabit pole would be removed as part of the Clanbrassil Street redevelopment.

It was agreed to check if there was any extension to the timeline or the route options report in relation to the Ardee bye-pass.

It was agreed to check if any commencement notices had been issued in relation to the strategic housing development in Blackrock.

It was agreed to look into more signage being erected in popular outdoor locations in relation to social distancing during the COVID19 crisis.

Minute No. 44/20

LCDC Annual Report 2019 – for noting

The LCDC annual report 2019 as circulated with the Agenda was noted by the members

Minute No. 45/20

Report from EMRA meetings – for noting

The report from EMRA meetings as required under Section 141 of the Local Government Act 2001 was noted by the members

Minute No. 46/20

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee

Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by Cllr. E. Coffey

And resolved

To approve a change to the membership on the LCDC. Ms. Martina Ralph will replace Ms. Annette McDonnell as the Health Service Executive representative on this committee.

Minute No. 47/20

Section 60 Audit Committee's Report, Auditors Report & AFS 2018

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne

And resolved

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To approve the above reports as circulated with the Agenda

Minute No. 48/20

Adoption of Protocols on Civic Awards & on the Office of a Cathoirleach

Both items deferred to a future meeting

Minute No. 49/20

Vacancy – Regional Health Forum – Dublin Nth East

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters

And resolved

That Cllr. Kevin Meenan will fill the vacancy on the Regional Health Forum - Dublin North East which has occurred due to the recent election of Cllr. R. O'Murchu to Dail Eireann

Minute No. 50/20

Vacancy – Local Community Development Committee

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. A. Watters

And resolved

That Cllr. Kevin Meenan will fill the vacancy on the LCDC which has occurred due to the recent election of Cllr. R. O'Murchu to Dail Eireann

Minute No. 51/20

Vacancy – North East Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force

Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough

And resolved

That Cllr. Kevin Meenan will fill the vacancy on the North East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force which has occurred due to the recent election of Cllr. R. O'Murchu to Dail Eireann

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Minute No. 52/20

Vacancy – Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum

**Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough
And resolved**

That Cllr Kevin Meenan will fill the vacancy on the Louth Drugs and Alcohol Forum which has occurred due to the recent election of Cllr. R. O'Murchu to Dail Eireann

Minute No. 53/20

Vacancy – Membership of the Housing SPC

**Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. P. McGeough
And resolved**

That Cllr Kevin Meenan will fill the vacancy on the Housing SPC which has occurred due to the recent election of Cllr. R. O'Murchu to Dail Eireann

Minute No. 54/20

Allocation of Members Community Grants

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

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 55/20

Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. J. Tenanty
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheridan**

Calling on Louth County Council to undertake a new Litter Management Plan for 2020 similar in nature and content to that undertaken by Fingal County council in 2019

Reply:

The Council will develop a Litter Management plan based on best practice from within Louth and other local authorities

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The reply was noted by the members

Minute No. 56/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. S. Kelly

“That Louth County Council adopt a Central register for all traffic calming and speed audits in the county, including, but not limited to, the location of the audit, the date it was carried out, the nature of the audit and short summary of any action taken”.

Reply:

The Operations Section maintains a spreadsheet of speed surveys carried out for North and South areas. This includes location and date of survey.

The reply was noted by the members and it was requested that the information be circulated to the members.

Minute No. 57/20

Notice of Motion

Proposed by: Cllr. E. McGreehan

That Louth County Council would facilitate that all staff undertake ‘Disability Awareness Training’, with priority given to frontline staff initially. It should also facilitate Access Auditing Training for all planning and infrastructure technical staff.

The awareness training would provide clear and accurate information for employees of Louth County Council about working with and supporting people with disabilities.

This motion was deferred as the proposer was not present

Minute No. 58/20

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan

In relation to public lighting, who is liable for costs of public lighting on the M1 is it Celtic Roads Group, TII or Louth County Council? Has there been any discussion about partial lighting of junctions as happens in Fingal to save costs and reduce light pollution.

Reply:

TII are responsible for operation and Maintenance of public lighting in the M1. Please refer to press release from Transport Infrastructure Ireland regarding

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Removal of Surplus Lighting from Motorway Junctions. This is a TII scheme and therefore is the responsibility of TII.

Response was noted by the members

Minute No. 59/20

Notice of Question

Submitted by Cllr. J. Sheridan

In relation to public lighting in rural areas, has Louth county council explored a scheme whereby residents could fund the capital cost of a light as well as enter a bond to pay for a proportion or all of the electricity bill of the light for a set period?

Reply:

There is no such scheme. Members of the public can always contact ESB directly to install extra lights on private property.

Response was noted by the members

Minute No. 60/20

Motions from other Councils

Motions from other Councils as listed with the Agenda were noted by the members

Minute No. 61/20

Correspondence

Correspondence as listed 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: _____