

## *Minutes of Council Meeting November 2020*

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council held in St. Gerard's Hall, St. Alphonsus Road, County Hall, Dundalk on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **In attendance:**

**Cathaoirleach:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore,

**Officials:** J. Martin, Chief Executive  
F. Pentony, Director of Services  
C. Duff, Director of Services  
J. McGuinness, Director of Services  
P. Donnelly, Director of Services  
B. Woods, Head of Finance  
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. Kevin Meenan

### **Minute No. 168/20**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue

**Seconded by:** Cllr. John Sheridan

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October be confirmed

### **Minute No. 169/20**

#### **Minutes for noting**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maria Doyle

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**And resolved:**

That the minutes of the meetings listed below are noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Borough District of Drogheda 5<sup>th</sup> October & Budgetary Plan 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Municipal District of Dundalk 6<sup>th</sup> October & Budgetary Plan 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Municipal District of Ardee 1<sup>st</sup> October & Budgetary Plan 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Community & Quality of Life & Creativity SPC 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

**Minute No. 170/20**

**Amendment of Standing Orders to facilitate remote attendance at Council Meetings**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**And resolved:**

Director of Services J McGuinness advised on the proposed amendment to Standing Orders to allow remote attendance at Council Meetings following Ministerial approval letter which issued to each authority. Members discussed and the following change to wording of the proposals were requested

Cllr Butler suggested changing 'Political parties' to read 'political groups' this was deemed acceptable.

Cllr Sharkey suggested changing 'Attending Remotely' to 'Attending in person' for the majority. The CE suggested that we didn't want to eliminate any possibilities in case a time came where we were required to hold a meeting wholly remotely and this was agreed.

**Minute No. 171/20**

**Library Development Programme 2020 - 2025**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Maeve Yore

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Pio Smith

**And resolved:**

To adopt Louth Library Service Development Programme 2020-2025 as prescribed in Section 78 (7) of the Local Government Act 2001

Members requested that an open library be considered for Dundalk, and that toilet facilities be considered for all. Director of Services Paddy Donnelly advised members on issues raised.

Cllr. Sharkey pointed out an error in the Irish spelling of the name of the development programme and was advised this would be remedied.

**Minute No. 172/20**

**Report on CPG Meeting**

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held in the Council chamber, at 9.00 am on Wednesday 4th November 2020 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk. The following items were discussed:

The Ministerial Order which allows for remote meetings

The Chief Executive briefed Members on the 2021 Draft Budget Proposal

Level of local items making way to Council meetings

The time taken by Councillors on local and on one item issues

Members noted significant improvement in response to member's queries

## *Minutes of Council Meeting November 2020*

### **Minute No. 173/20**

#### **Reports by Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons**

##### **Economic Development & Enterprise Support**

Cllr. Pio Smith advised of a one item agenda on Town Centre Rejuvenation at the Economic Development SPC zoom meeting and resource restraints on same. The CE advised LCC working with BIDs and Chambers of Commerce and details are to issue a national programme on Economic Development in near future.

##### **Planning & Support Infrastructure**

Cllr Doyle advised that the planning SPC had received a very informative presentation on the current status of the Draft Co. Dev. Plan from J. Kelly Senior Planner following which a Q&A took place over zoom

### **Minute No. 174/20**

#### **Allocation of Members Community Grants**

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Liam Reilly  
**Seconded by:** Cllr. John Sheridan  
**And resolved:**

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

### **Minute No. 175/20**

#### **Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Maeve Yore**  
**Seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKevitt**

“That Louth County Council install additional bottle banks at high capacity sites, increase frequency of emptying them and ensure signage on all bottle banks throughout County advising of litter penalties “

**Reply:** **From Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services, Operations**

**While this is a potential option available to the Council within those constraints, our primary and preferred response is to ensure that the contractor meets demand with a sufficiently frequent collection schedule, in accordance with their obligations and their own assurances to the Council. Collection rates have increased by 50% in this regard**

**Signs warning of penalties for illegal littering at all bottle banks have been ordered and are in the process of being prepared and installed. Some are already in place and all should be in place by the end of the year.**

**The Chief Executive advised that there was no funding to expand the bottle bank service.**

*Minutes of Council Meeting November 2020*

**Minute No. 176/20**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith**

“Asking that Louth County Council request the government to form a review board to gather all the evidence regarding A Company, 35th Infantry Battalion’s engagement in the 1961 Battle of Jadotville in the Congolese province of Katang, and make recommendations to the Minister regarding the awarding of Distinguished Service Medals to the troops who engaged in that Battle”

***This motion was withdrawn as the Minister with responsibility has announced the establishment of a Review Board in this matter***

**Minute No. 177/20**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Declan Power**

**Seconded by Cllr. Hugh Conlon**

"Calling on Louth County Council to write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O' Brien to make amendments and change the Irish Building Regulations to make it mandatory for new public buildings to include Changing Place Toilet Facilities

"

**Various members agreed with and offered support to this motion**

**Minute No. 178/20**

**Notice of Motion**

**Proposed by Cllr. Hugh Conlon**

**Seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore**

“That Louth Co. Council set up a Sub- Committee to review its annual payments of €10’000 made to Stephenstown Pond Trust.

Also that the Sub-Committee review the specific applications made by Stephenstown Pond Trust in relation to drawdowns of the €10,000 funding in the future”.

**Reply: From Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, Corporate**

**Committees of Council may only be established to consider matters connected with the functions of Council and assist and advise on those matters. This would also only relate to reserved functions of Council.**

### *Minutes of Council Meeting November 2020*

Cllr. Conlon raised general issues with regard to the public funding of this project by way of background to his proposal.

Members were advised that there was no statutory legislation to allow for the Council to set up a sub committee to investigate this matter

Cllr Conlon requested that the wording of the proposal be changed to allow 'review be carried out by Dundalk MD' and was advised that they could not do so.

### **Minute No. 179/20**

#### **Monthly Management Report**

It was agreed at outset to move the Reports to end of meeting.

Members requested the following:-

- that Narrow Water Bridge Project be kept on the agenda
- that LCC write to NI Body responsible for monitoring of the Waste Treatment Plant polluting our River Creggan
- update on LCC Greenway scheme and whether application was made by LCC under the recently announced 60m Greenway funding
- Whether a list of all applications made by LCC in each section could be made available monthly
- A campaign to be launched on Puppy Farm awareness
- Information on how Dog Licence costs were allocated
- Where new speed limit sign funding came from
- If a bridge could be built over river at Fagan's Public House to Fatima estate with Cycle lane to link two secondary schools
- An update on number of rapid chargers
- An update on Electoral register and Eircodes
- That the year listed on page 46 be amended to 2020 and not 3030
- That the North & East Housing Association scheme mentioned on page 47 also list the address of scheme
- That recognition be given to the number waiting for DPGs some of whom may never get grant funding at the current rate of approval

Members were advised on all items raised, and were particularly asked to bring awareness to voters who may now be off the register following recent review. Members were urged to encourage people to check the register as over 1000 people were knocked off register due to no response to letters from Council.

### **Minute No. 180/20**

#### **Motions from other Councils**

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

*Minutes of Council Meeting November 2020*

That concluded the business of the meeting

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cathaoirleach: \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_