

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in Council Chamber and held remotely over MS teams on 19th April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, , Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore
All Councillors attended remotely

Apologies: Cllrs. Emma Coffey, Hugh Conlon, Conor Keelan, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Paddy McQuillan

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive – (present in Council Chamber)
J. McGuinness, Director of Services – (present in Council Chamber)
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator – (present in Council Chamber)
P. Donnelly, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
C. Duff, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
B. Woods, Head of Finance – (attended remotely)
F. Pentony, Director of Services – (attended remotely)
E. Eaton, Staff Officer, Corp. Services (present in Council Chamber)

Minute No. 63/21

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Hall

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 15th March 2021 be confirmed.

Minute No. 64/21

Matters Arising

Minute 59/21 – Members were advised that the CE had contacted Foras na Gaeilge and a member from An Foras was to meet with Management Team.

It was noted that Cllr. Keelan's motion was not heard at the last meeting as he had not been present.

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021
Minute No. 65/21

District Meetings Minutes for noting

Minutes of the District meetings listed below were noted by the members.

Borough District of Drogheda 1st February 2021
Municipal District of Dundalk 2nd February 2021
Municipal District of Ardee 4th & 18th February 2021

Minute No. 66/21

Committees of Council Minutes for noting

Minutes of Committee meetings listed below were noted by the members.

Corporate Policy Group 3rd March 2021
Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC Oct 2020
Audit Committee 11th February 2021
Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee (LTACC) 2nd December 2020

Minute No. 67/21

Tuarascáil ó Chathaoirleach an Ghrúpa Beatais Corpaideach / Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held in the Council chamber,

at 9.00 am on Wednesday 7th April, 2021 by zoom.

Members noted the minutes of the March meeting and received a briefing on all items within the April council Meeting agenda.

The length of time spent on the CE report items was discussed in depth.

Members received an update on the CE report on the County Development Plan

Following the Report Cllr. Sharkey questioned the Cathaoirleach as to whether the CPG were fully informed on specific items with today's agenda, including the Auditors report and the AFS. He requested a breakdown of exactly what they had been advised.

Minute No. 68/21

Tuarascail o Chathaoirligh an Choiste an Beartaqs Straiteiseach / Strategic Policy Committee Chairperson's Report

Cllr Pio Smith advised that the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC had met on 5th April and received two presentations, one on the Draft Louth Retail Strategy which was notably compiled pre-covid and a health check appraisal was so advised, the other was given by Caroline Brady on the Regional Enterprise Plan. The Plan covers the North East region and its objective is to drive investment. Two successful examples of

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

mechanisms supported by the plan were the recent funding announcements of €500k under Destination Towns, and €800k to Creative Spark for the creation of a support hub. Next SPC meeting calendared for May.

Minute No. 69/21

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive

- Monthly Management Report
- Finance & Water Services
- Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure
- Operations & Waste Management
- Corporate & Emergency Services
- Housing & Quality of Life

Members noted all reports, and relevant Directors responded to queries raised.

The following items were noted:

Water

Irish Water to be requested by Water Services, to directly furnish to Members:

- A report on Staleen Capacity
- An update on Tallanstown Rationalisation Project status
- EPA reports as furnished to Irish Water

And to consider adding Kilcurry in any works programme.

Planning

Statistics/Metric will be provided to members by Planning on

- Short Term Leasing
- Unauthorised Development
- Dangerous Structures/Derelict Sites/Vacant Sites
- Outdoor Dining Scheme applications

Members were advised there is still no engagement from Dept on PANCR, but the appeal has commenced, a comparison exercise with similar successful application is ongoing, and other funding avenues are being considered.

Fáilte Ireland appointed contractor was UK based which caused delay but this is resolved.

Clarification was given that anyone can apply for Outdoor Dining Scheme but that S254 licence application was also required – both applications are on website. Part of the application process was to ensure accessibility.

Members welcomed the announcement of €2.8m funding for Omeath Rural Regeneration Fund that morning and requested updates on the following:

- Greenway
- Whether Louth applied for funding under the Outdoor Water Based Activity Scheme
- Tourism Masterplan for Carlingford, this then extended to a Masterplan for Louth and included a request for a presentation from Fáilte Ireland

Frank Pentony advised Members will be so advised.

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

Operations

- Dumping on Green area of Muirhevnamór to be examined with Housing for solutions
- Possible mixed use of all bottle banks to be explored with provider
- Bottle Bank Report to be issued by Willie Walsh to Members
- Signage on Mountain to be explored

Corporate & Emergency Services

- Rolling retained Firefighter competition would remain live
- Apprenticeship scheme announced today would be examined

Housing & Quality of Life

- No easy solution to Castlemanor / Moneymore gap, ongoing consultation with An Garda Siochana and noted that any solution found must be permanent and should benefit the residents of both estates.
- Council have responsibility for continuity of supply where necessary for tenants in all properties including LTL but tenants once housed are off list.
- National discussions are ongoing on Maintenance funding issues.
- Possible issue with CBL applications remaining 'in basket' to be referred to operator.

Minute No. 70/21

Placenames Committee - Adoption of Standing Orders

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheridan

And Resolved:

To adopt the Standing Orders as circulated with the Agenda.

It was suggested that appointment to committee could be reviewed to change from requiring it to come from AGM to an MD appointment. It was advised that Standing Orders might first be adopted then any changes to nomination mechanisms could be proposed thereafter.

Minute No. 71/21

Eirgrid Presentation

As the Eirgrid team had been waiting for some time to present, the Cathaoirleach proposed to hear this presentation now and Cllr. Liam Reilly seconded the proposal.

Michael Mahon, Chief Infrastructure Officer and Head of Future Networks, Robbie Aherne joined the meeting. Members then received a presentation from Eirgrid the focus of which was to ensure up to 70% of electricity is sourced from renewable energy by 2030.

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021
Minute No. 72/21

Consideration of Annual Financial Statement and Auditors Report 2019

To consider in accordance with Section 60(3) of the 2014 Local Government Reform Act, the audit committee's report on its consideration of the 2019 Audited Financial Statement and the Auditor's Report.

Proposed by: Cllr. E. Tully
Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

- A number of queries were raised under this item and the following were noted/agreed:
- o The Audit Committee to be requested to confirm to Cllr Yore if her query around Stephenstown Pond had been raised and heard.
 - o The possibility of the Council defaulting on land loans was raised; Members were advised that it would cost more in court fees to defend this and would ruin our capacity for future borrowing.
 - o Clarification was given by the Executive on the issue of historic housing loans, new procurement system on the Financial Management System and the property register.
 - o A request for a presentation from Fleadh Committee was made by Members.

Minute No. 73/21

Statutory Audit Committee Matters for consideration under the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014

The Audit Committee Charter for adoption without amendment under Article 8 of the above statutory instrument

Proposed by: Cllr. L. Reilly
Seconded by: Cllr. J. Sheridan

The Audit Committee Annual Work Programme for adoption without amendment under Article 9 of the above statutory instrument.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

The Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the year 2020, under Articles 13 & 15 of the above statutory instrument was noted.

Minute No. 74/21

2020 Unaudited Annual Financial Statements

To consider the Unaudited Annual Financial Statements for 2020 and to approve, in accordance with S.104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended)

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

(i) the revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2020 as set out in Note 16 to the Accounts **Proposed by:** Cllr. E. Tully, **Seconded by:** Cllr. D. Minogue

and

(ii) the transfers to and from Capital as per the report.

Proposed by: Cllr. J. Sheridan

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

Minute No. 75/21

Allocations of Members Community Grants

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. L. Reilly

And resolved

To approve Members Community Grant Allocations as circulated with the agenda

Minute No. 76/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. Emma Coffey – deferred to May Meeting as Cllr. Coffey was not present & apologies were recorded

That Louth County Council calls on the Minister of Housing to immediately decommission The SHD (Strategic Housing Developments) system due to its undemocratic and unconstitutional nature and increase costs to developers in the application process and to citizens in having to challenge such decisions made under this system in the high court jurisdiction

Minute No. 77/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. M. Butler

Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

And resolved

"That Louth County Council become a Council Partner to the new All Ireland Pollinator Plan (2021 – 2025), joining our neighbouring county councils of Monaghan and Meath".

It was noted that the Council intend to join this plan

Minute No. 78/21

Notice of Question

Proposed by Cllr. John Sheridan

How many applications for a Section 5 Declarations does Louth County Council receive per annum under the Planning Act 2001? What number are issued and how many are rejected? Is there any follow up of declarations issued to ensure when works are completed that they still qualify as exempt under Section 5 or is it a separate matter of planning enforcement.

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

Reply from Mr. F. Pentony, Director of Services Planning & Infrastructure

SECTION 5 APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM 2018 TO 2021 (up to 23/03/21)

Year	No. of Applications received for Section 5 Declarations	Granted	Refused	Awaiting Response to Further Information Requested (no time limit)	Withdrawn by Applicant	Split Decision	Invalid
2021	6 (up to 23/03/21)	2	2	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
2020	44	30	7	1	4	1	1
2019	69	42	22	3	1		1
2018	58	33	14	4	2	5	n/a

The Council does not follow up on works completed to ensure that the works completed are exempt. This is a matter for Planning Enforcement.

The response was noted by the members

Minute No. 79/21

Question: Cllr. Liam Reilly

Given the significant increase in casual littering and illegal dumping in the last twelve months could Louth County Council confirm:-

Reply from Ms. C. Duff, Director of Services Operations, Waste Mgt. Environment

1) The period that the current Litter Management Plan for Louth covers and when the current Plan is due for review in accordance with Litter Pollution legislation, and if Tidy Towns Committees and, by association, Community Employment Scheme personnel, who undertake Litter management in their local communities, will be targeted in the required public consultation process?

(2) If, public health restrictions permitting, it is intended to organise the usual Litter League in 2021 to acknowledge and support the efforts of local Tidy Towns volunteers who continue to do so much to deal with the litter problem in their local communities despite the challenging times we are in?

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

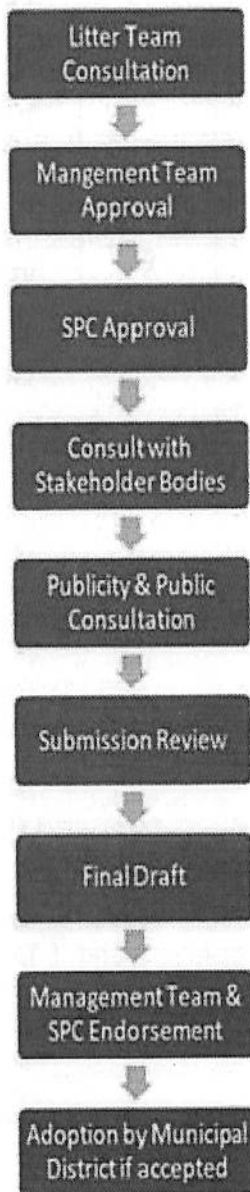
Reply from Ms. Catherine Duff, Director of Services, Operations

Under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Schedule 3, Part 1 Ref:33) adoption of litter management plans is a reserve function of Municipal Districts, therefore individual plans must be prepared for:

1. Dundalk Municipal District
2. Ardee Municipal District
3. Borough District of Drogheda

Preparation of these plans is underway and it is intended to bring them to SPC in May.

The plan development process is laid out as follows:



Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

It is Louth County Councils intention to carry out the Litter League during 2021, if public health guidelines permit. However, the format may need to change to reflect the restrictions at that time.

Funding for this initiative is provided under the Ant-litter initiatives fund that comes directly from the department- this was not provided for in 2020. However, it is expected that funding for the litter league will be provided for, in 2021.

The response was noted by the members

Minute No. 80/21

Correspondence

Motion to Minister O' Brien 10th March & email response dated 1st April 2021

Motion to Minister O' Brien 24th March & email response dated 29th March 2021

Letter from Dept in response to letter dated 24th of March (LDA)

Correspondence as listed with the Agenda was noted by the members

Minute No.81/21

Motions from other Councils

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

Minute No. 82/21

Condolences

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Paddy Dunne

Maurice Harrison

Jimmy Greene

Christy Kearney

Mark Dempsey

Minute No. 83/21

Any Other Business

The members noted the schedule of planning meeting dates required to consider the Chief Executives Report and it was agreed a Doodle Survey will issue. The Chief Executive pointed out she will be proposing some daytime meetings in this process.

Minutes of Council Meeting April 2021

That concluded the business of the meeting.

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

Date: 14th May 2021

Cathaoirleach: D. W. O'Connell

Meetings Administrator: A. Quinlan