

Council Meeting 20th December 2021

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting hosted in person in St. Gerard's Hall, Dundalk and held remotely over MS Teams.

In attendance:

Presiding:

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Pio Smith

Members:

(R) signifies remote attendance.

Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly (R), James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle (R), Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Sean Kelly (R), Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Dolores Minogue (R), Declan Power, John Reilly (R), Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey (R), John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies:

Councillors: Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Andrea McKeivitt , Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan.

Officials:

Present:

Chief Executive - Joan Martin,

Directors of Services - Joe McGuinness, Paddy Donnelly, Catherine Duff (R), & Frank Pentony,

Head of Finance - Bernie Woods,

Head of IT - Helen Divilly

Meetings Administrator - Gráinne Tuomey

Co. Librarian - Yvonne O'Brien (R)

Minute No. 204/21

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 15th November 2021 were Proposed by Cllr. Eileen Tully, Seconded by Cllr. Antóin Watters and adopted.

Minute No. 205/21

Matters Arising

Minute 191/2021 Cllr. Joanna Byrne suggested that the minute taken did not adequately capture her report and asked that it be amended to reflect that the 2022/23 work programme will also include

- Rental Property Standards Inspection

- Home Security Scheme
- Housing for All update

Minute No. 206/21

Confirmation of Minutes of Budget 2022 Meeting

Minutes of the Budget 2022 Meeting on Monday 15th November 2021 were Proposed by Cllr. John Sheridan, Seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly and adopted.

Minute No. 207/21

Minutes of Municipal District Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Borough District of Drogheda 1st November 2021
- Municipal District of Dundalk 2nd November 2021
- Municipal District of Ardee 4th November 2021

Minute No. 208/21

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 3rd November 2021
- Louth Newry Mourne & Down Strategic Alliance Report 15th September 2021
- Placenames Committee Meeting 20th September 2021

Minute No. 209/21

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

Cllr. Pio Smith informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held in the Council chamber, at 9.00 am on Wednesday 3rd November. Items discussed included:

- Today's Budget Meeting
- December County Meeting to be held in St. Gerards and then review
- Overview of the Council Meeting Agenda
- New County Development Plan in place, nothing significant to report
- OPR report on planning services in Louth expected soon
- SPC Chairs expected to report on 2022 work plan at January Meeting

Minute No. 210/21

Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report

- Nothing to report

Minute No. 211/21

Section 183 - Notice - Proposed Disposal of Land at Lis Na Dara, Carrick Road, Dundalk

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the disposal of Lands at **Lis Na Dara, Carrick Road, Dundalk** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution; This was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill

And Resolved.

Minute No. 212/21

Service Delivery Plan 2022 - for approval

Some Members expressed dissatisfaction with the Service Delivery Plan as presented and in particular expressing concern on the targets being set. They were advised by Joe McGuinness Director of Services that the legislation dictated that Members '**Must** consider'and '**Shall adopt**' a Service Delivery Plan with or without amendment and where changes are proposed that these cannot contradict or impose changes on the budget; as adopted.

Following much discussion on the Plan and the details of targets and contents;

Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill proposed to adopt the plan, which was seconded by Cllr. James Byrne.

An Amendment to the adoption of the Plan was then proposed by Cllr. Marianne Butler, and seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne as follows:

'To Defer the adoption of the Plan to January to allow Members to email in proposed changes.'

And a roll call vote was held as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
BUTLER, Marianne	1			
BUTTERLY, Paula	1			
BYRNE, James		1		
BYRNE, Joanna	1			
CALLAN, Kevin				1
COFFEY, Emma				1
CONLON, Bernie				1
CORRIGAN, Edel	1			

CUNNINGHAM, Tom	1			
DOYLE, Maria	1			
HALL, Michelle		1		
KEELAN, Conor	1			
KELLY, Sean	1			
Mac RAGHNAILL, Fiachra		1		
McGEOUGH, Pearse	1			
McKEVITT, Andrea				1
McQUILLAN, Paddy				1
MEENAN, Kevin				1
MINOGUE, Dolores	1			
POWER, Declan	1			
REILLY, John	1			
REILLY, Liam		1		
SHARKEY, Tomás	1			
SHERIDAN, John	1			
SMITH, Pio		1		
TENANTY, Jim	1			
TULLY, Eileen		1		
WATTERS, Antoin	1			
YORE, Maeve	1			
Totals	17	6	0	6

And Cllr. Butler's proposal was agreed.

Minute No. 213/21

Vacancy - Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC

It was proposed by Cllr. Jim Tenanty, seconded by Cllr. Maeve Yore and resolved that Cllr. Bernie Conlon be appointed the Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC to fill the vacancy created by death of Cllr. Hugh Conlon RIP.

Minute No. 214/21

Extension of Duration of Development Contribution Scheme 2016-21, made under Section 46 of Planning and Development Act, 2000, (As Amended)

Members were advised that a separate Development Contribution Scheme was being considered for North Drogheda to ring fence funds for the PANCR (Port Access Northern Cross Route) which would result in two schemes for the county. It was not expected that it would take a full year to develop both schemes but Members were being requested for a year's extension to the existing scheme under article 9 of the Development Contribution Scheme to be prudent and to allow for public consultation periods.

The extension of time to end of year 2023 was

Proposed by: Cllr. Fiachra Mac Raghnaill

Seconded by: Cllr. Liam Reilly

And agreed.

Minute No. 215/21

**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 discussed the report as issued and the following items were highlighted:

Finance & Water Services

- Issues with drinking water 'Do not consume' notices, ammonia at Greenmount Water Plant and public notification and communication of same by Irish Water were discussed in depth. Members were advised to raise all issues at the next Irish Water Clinic with Councillors. Some Members expressed dissatisfaction with this response and requested a letter be sent to Irish Water. Bernie Woods, Head of Finance and Water Services advised in response to the request that she would contact Irish Water with all concerns.
- Members were reminded that Irish Water hold a vulnerable customer register and were urged to advise any vulnerable residents known to them to register with Irish Water.

Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure

- The Chief Executive advised Members that St. Dominic's Church had been acquired by the council and proposals for use were under consideration.
- The disparity of applications for trading online vouchers versus lesser drawdown figures was raised and will be forwarded to Head of LEO for response.
- Members were advised there were no plans for an individual Tourism Officer for Louth, as there was already a shared service with Meath as well as tourism promotion by the BIDs office.
- The Greenway is at design stage and expected to progress to Part 8 early in the New Year.
- It was clarified that all works on protected structures require planning permission.
- Updates were requested on Narrowwater Bridge, timeframe for repair of Annagassan Bridge, Ardee Castle works; these were not available at this meeting.

Operations & Waste Management

- EV charging points locations are being discussed with the ESB.
- The council await guidelines from the Dept to progress the implementation plan for Decarbonisation Zones.
- Low cost safety measures –
 - Cllr. Hall expressed disappointment that expected works at Tullyallen were no longer going ahead and advised that at no point was the issue of tender price raised.

- o Director of Services Catherine Duff advised Tullyallen was still under consideration for coming year but 2021 funds were expended.

Corporate & Emergency Services

- o No queries raised.

Housing & Quality of Life

- o Out of hours Homeless Service would continue over the Christmas period.

Minute No. 216/21

Presentation on PEACEPLUS - Ms Pamela Arthurs

Members received a presentation from Ms Pamela Arthurs Chief Executive of the East Border Region on the PEACEPLUS project which was warmly received. Ms. Arthurs gave a background on the East Border Region which was founded in 1976 and is a local authority led cross border organisation, whose mission is to “promote cross border economic development which benefits the people of the region” Ms. Arthurs advised Members that EBR receives funding from Europe through INTERREG. PEACEPLUS is a new funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. PEACEPLUS is one of the few INTERREG programmes not to have had funding cut in 2021.

Minute No. 217/21

Allocation of Members Community Grants

Approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

And Resolved.

Minute No. 218/21

Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Approval of attendances at Conferences as notified to the Elected Members was

Proposed by: Cllr. Liam Reilly

Seconded by: Cllr. John Sheridan

And Resolved.

Minute No. 219/21

Condolences

Former Sinn Fein Town Councillor for Ardee, Seamus (Shay) Rooney was remembered fondly by Members, and sympathy was extended to his family and friends

Minute No. 220/21

Congratulations

Congratulations were offered to St. Mary's NS Drogheda on winning the Lennon Cup.

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

17th January 2022

Cathaoirleach:

[Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]

