

Minutes of Council Meeting January 2021

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in Council Chamber and held remotely over MS teams on 18th January 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

In attendance:

Cathaoirleach: Cllr. Dolores Minogue

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Hugh Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, 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

Officials: J. Martin, Chief Executive – present in Council Chamber
F. Pentony, Director of Services – attended remotely
C. Duff, Director of Services – attended remotely
J. McGuinness, Director of Services – attended remotely
P. Donnelly, Director of Services – attended remotely
B. Woods, Head of Finance – attended remotely
G. Tuomey, Meetings Administrator – present in Council Chamber
M. Bagnell, Head of I.T. (present in Council Chamber)

Apologies: Cllrs. Emma Coffey, Paddy McQuillan

At the outset of the meeting An Cathaoirleach advised that although the meeting was predominantly remote, as it was being hosted from the Chamber and staff members were present the time frame set for meetings during Covid-19 would have to be adhered to and the meeting would cease after 1 hour 50 minutes. Following a roll call of members the meeting commenced.

Minute No. 01/21

Confirmation of Minutes

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. A. Watters
And resolved:

That the minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 21st December 2020 be confirmed.

Minute No. 02/21

Matters Arising

Cllr Maeve Yore requested correction to minute 186/20 – which stated she and Cllr Seán Kelly expressed unhappiness at the letter from the HSE received that morning, in response to the submission made by Councillors advocating for enhanced Mental Health services in

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Louth. Minute reflected that they had requested that Paul Reid head of HSE be written to and requested to attend meeting with Louth County Council on this matter.

It was agreed that the Minute should be corrected to reflect that they requested that Paul Reid be written to with a copy of correspondence advising of unhappiness at the response and requesting he direct representatives of HSE CH08 area, Mental Health to attend an in-camera meeting with them.

Minute No. 03/21

Minutes for noting

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

Corporate Policy Group 9th December 2020
Borough District of Drogheda 7th December 2020
Municipal District of Dundalk 1st December 2020
Municipal District of Ardee 3rd December 2020

Minute No. 04/21

Report on CPG Meeting

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 6th January 2021 by Zoom. At the meeting the following items were discussed:

- Members agreed to put the Biodiversity Plan on Council Agenda for January monthly meeting
- The issue of downtime of emails in December was discussed and it was considered that this would not affect submissions to draft County Development Plan as email timeframe could be checked
- Members are to revert back to the CPG on whether a new SPC programme must be submitted

Minute No. 05/21

Monthly Management Report

Members noted contents of the report and the following issues were highlighted:

- Insufficient notice period for Irish Water to suspend water when carrying out repairs – a suggestion was made that this could be brought to the Irish water virtual clinics by Members
- Who the stakeholders are that were referenced in the Port Access funding application

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- A briefing was requested on the 2 new Regeneration Departments covering Drogheda and Dundalk Towns
- An update on the status of the Draft Co. Dev. Plan and whether any update issued from Minister on one off rural development policy, and whether IT email disruption affected submissions
- Request for extra bottle banks in Ardee, a survey of bottle bank use and a general review of locations requested
- Update on the number of surveys of bins per household carried out under MyWaste initiative and breakdown of fines issued on illegal dumping
- Whether a pedestrian crossing could be provided in Collon and whether TII would be supportive
- Request to publicise all areas within Dundalk South and use Social Media to reinforce the Covid-19 message
- Social Media to be used to publicise enforcement action on waste/litter
- Allocation of funds for new Fire Station in Dunleer welcomed and suggestion re best location
- Information requested on controlled burning at Cooley following fires earlier in year
- Query on whether PUP was considered in Rent Assessment and if income had put applications over the maximum income limit for housing applications
- Update on housing grant funding applications requested
- Query on standard and spec of new drinking water fountains
- Whether documents/housing applications regularly got lost in post

The Chief Executive and Directors of Service responded to all queries raised.

Minute No. 06/21

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of Land formally known as “Connollys Field” Hill Street, Dundalk.

Proposed by: Cllr. M. Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. P. Smith

And resolved:-

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 4th January 2021, to confirm the disposal of 0.92 hectares of land at Hill Street, Dundalk for a consideration of €25,000 (twenty-five thousand euro) following a valuation process to Sprucetree Park Limited, Office Suite 1, Coes Road Business Park, Coes Road, Dundalk.

Members queried whether this was being disposed off below market value and whether there was a live planning application on site. Director of Services Joe McGuinness explained that this was a Freehold interest only between Dundalk Town Council and Mr. Connolly and Market Value was not a fair comparator. CE advised this was a Strategic Development Zone. Frank Pentony Director of Services advised he would check re the planning and revert back to members.

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Minute No. 07/21

Section 183 Notice – Proposed Disposal of Land at “Bealach an Tuir”, Commons Road, Dromiskin, Dundalk

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

That having considered the notice on the matter dated 4th January 2021, to confirm the disposal of 45.09 sq. metres or 0.004509 hectares of Land at ‘Bealach an Tuir’ Commons Road Dromiskin for a consideration of €1,000 (one thousand euro) following a valuation process to Mvac Property Limited, Old Fire Station, Cecil Street, Newry, Co. Down

Minute No. 08/21

Louth Local Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026

Brendan McSherry gave a brief overview of the Biodiversity Plan and Members expressed support for the plan and expressed a desire to give it formal endorsement. Cllr Liam Reilly proposed to endorse the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Louth 2021-2026, and Cllr Fiachra MacRaghnaill seconded this proposal

Members queried if there were local estate management plans within this plan to focus on biodiversity education of children and community engagement. It was suggested that a group could be established by Catherine Duff & team to focus on this annually.

Minute No. 09/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. M. Hall
Seconded by Cllr. M. Yore

I propose that Louth County Council devise a 10 year Play and Recreation Policy for County Louth. The aims of this policy will be to identify the play and recreational needs of children and young people in Louth from 0 -18 years old.

One of the first objectives should be to install inclusive playgrounds in North Drogheda and Termonfeckin as the two locations where there are no existing playgrounds.

The policy should promote national policies National Play Policy, Teenspace, Better Outcomes Brighter Futures, and Healthy Ireland to build on existing play areas and further promote play and recreation opportunities for our children and young people.

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Reply : Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services

The Local Authority has facilitated the installation of twenty three playgrounds across the county to date. These together with a number of Multi User Games Areas (MUGA), and adult exercise stations are testament to the local authorities' commitment to its Corporate objective of addressing poverty, Social Exclusion, Inequality and Accessibility. Furthermore a recreation policy has been developed as part of the Healthy Ireland Plan for Louth. <https://apps.louthcoco.ie/HealthyIrelandEbooks/> This is in line with action number 230 of the LECP (Develop a Recreation policy and a Play policy in line with the National Play policy and National Recreation policy) Other actions under the LECP include The provision of safe, recreational facilities/shared spaces where children and young people can gather in an inclusive confident way. All of these actions address the matters raised in the motion.

Councillor E. Corrigan proposed that the second part of the motion be amended to remove reference to specific areas and this be looked at on a county wide basis, and Cllr. T. Sharkey seconded it.

Members and Officials engaged in a discussion on this motion and on playground facilities throughout the county. Issues discussed included:

- Demand in various locations
- Different type of play facilities that could be provided
- Age range of those using facilities
- Teenagers and Special Need Integration Provision
- Funding Mechanisms and lack thereof
- Sourcing suitable sites and consultation with local groups
- Maintenance and resourced required
- The 23 facilities provided throughout the county

The Chief Executive suggested that this would be brought back to Management Team for discussion and that they would revert back on this item to Members. Members agreed to await this.

Minute No. 10/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. McGeough

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

That Louth County Council supports the campaign by the Finucane family for an Independent Public Inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane.

Cross Party Members indicated support for this motion

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Minute No. 11/21

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. C. Keelan

Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

That Louth County Council supports the campaign of Epilepsy Ireland to address long-standing issues that continue to impact on people with epilepsy and their families in Ireland today, namely:

1. Access to Free Travel.

2. Provision of Reasonable Accommodations for State Examinations for students with epilepsy." The Motion to be then sent to the Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD, Michael Moynihan TD (Chair, Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters) and to other local authorities for correspondence purposes.

Members agreed the motion

An Cathaoirleach advised that as the time frame for meetings during Covid-19 had elapsed at 1 hour and 50 minutes the meeting was concluded.

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

Date:

15 Feb 2021

Cathaoirleach:

D. Minahan

Meetings Administrator:

A. Spence