

## **Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022**

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held in St. Gerards Hall, Dundalk and also remotely over MS Teams.

**In attendance: (R) signifies Remote Attendance, all others attended in person**

**Presiding:**

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Pio Smith

**Members:**

Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly(R), James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan(R), Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle(R), Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Sean Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Paddy McQuillan(R), Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue(R), Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Apologies:**

Councillors: Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Liam Reilly

**Officials:**

Chief Executive - Joan Martin

Directors of Services - Joe McGuinness, Paddy Donnelly, Catherine Duff and Frank Pentony

Head of Finance - Bernie Woods

Meetings Administrator - Gráinne Tuomey

### **Minute No. 17/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne, Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall and adopted.

### **Minute No. 18/22**

#### **Matters Arising**

Members were advised they would be furnished with the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) once complete.

Reports and application submissions by Executive on live applications cannot be given out until decisions are made on the application/grant funding.

Bernie Woods will follow up info on water pressure in Cooley.

### **Minute No. 19/22**

#### **Minutes of Municipal District Meetings - Noted**

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Borough District of Drogheda 10th January 2022

- Municipal District of Dundalk 11th January 2022
- Municipal District of Ardee 13th January 2022

### **Minute No. 20/22**

#### **Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted**

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 5th January 2022

### **Minute No. 21/22**

#### **Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group**

Cllr. Pio Smith informed the members that the meeting of the CPG was held over MS Teams at 9.00am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Items discussed included:

- This County Meeting to be held online and then review
- SPC Work Programme to be standing item annually
- Overview of the Council Meeting Agenda
- S141 reporting on committee/bodies to be standing item on March Agenda annually – Members were requested to note this for the next meeting
- Centenary of Defence Forces takeover of Aiken Barracks, Dundalk
- Covid Memorial Day

### **Minute No. 22/22**

#### **Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report - Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC**

Cllr. Emma Coffey informed members that the meeting of the Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC was held on Wednesday 16th February via the Zoom platform. Items discussed included:

- A presentation on the Decade of Centenaries programme 2022 delivered by Amanda Brannigan, Senior Executive Librarian. The Historian in Residence initiative will again feature. Members asked about engagement with schools and communities. All Elected Members were encourage to engage with the programme by Cllr Coffey
- The final draft on the Policy on “Works by community groups in the public realm” has been signed off by the SPC. The aim is to help and support improvement works by groups in the local area including on H&S, and appointment of PSCS and PSDP. Cllr Coffey extended particular thanks to John Lawrence and Paula Gribben for their work on the policy and advised Members that the Louth County Council website has details on public realm projects.
- The SPC Work Programme was noted and agreed
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th June 2021

## **Strategic Policy Committee Chairpersons Report - Housing**

Cllr. Joanna Byrne informed members that the meeting of the Housing SPC was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February via the zoom platform. Items discussed included:

- 'Housing for All' added to work programme
- Members received a presentation on Private Rented inspections from Barry McCann, Exec Engineer, highlighting Cross Authority sharing of information & best practice, hand held lone worker devices & GIS use.
- Members raised a number of queries
  - Notice to Tenant of inspections under Long Term Letting
  - Increases in rent
  - Residential Tenancies Board information leaflets
  - Stages of Enforcement
  - Inspections of HAP properties
  - Waste Management for tenants

Members expressed thanks to Noel Traynor and Barry McCann for their work, and a high level of participation was noted.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **Minute No. 23/22**

#### **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**

- A copy of audit accounts requested for the Fleadh was referred to be directed to Fleadh Committee
- Members were advised to refer capital works queries on Greenmount and Tallanstown back to Irish Water to keep on the agenda for their meeting with Members

##### **Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure**

- Members were advised that the County Development Plan was drafted with regard to available publications at time. The Irish Battlefields Project was not available and does not have any formal legal protection.
- NTA Bus Shelters design has commenced.
- Staffing issues will be addressed in Short term lettings and Active Travel however Members were advised that Short term lettings function was transferring to the

Residential Tenancies Board. Staff retention and turnover noted as problematic nationally.

- Members were referred to page 17 of the Chief Executive report for updates on PANCR.
- An update on R178 Cavan to Dundalk Road Improvement Scheme would be sought.
- Footpath at the Carnbeg Hotel would be looked at with engineers however it was never envisioned that pedestrian access would be required.
- Narrowwater bridge update would be put on next agenda.
- A greenway ranger was suggested.
- CFRAM timelines and Urban Animation Timelines will be furnished to Members.
- Report will issue on shop front improvement grants completed.
- Request for meeting with Drogheda Implementation Board is not a matter for council meeting and should be referred directly to the Board Chair.
- Public lighting provision has ongoing energy cost post provision.
- Foreign Direct Investment is vitally important and networking opportunities for St. Patricks Day encourages same.

Cllr. Dolores Minogue proposed a letter issue to the Minister to reopen Dunleer Railway Station and to extend a visit to the area when available. This was seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly.

### **Operations & Waste Management**

- Operations are consulting with An Taisce on a recreation policy.
- An anti-graffiti campaign will be considered.
- Cost of hire of equipment versus purchase is considered under a Value For Money review.
- Blueflag Beach criteria is being considered.
- Criminal Activity noted as dumping of copper wire casing in Mid Louth
- Parklet provision queried now Covid is hopefully ending. It was thought it will continue as it was largely welcomed in towns.
- Dog bins are being replaced by ordinary bins.

### **Corporate & Emergency Services**

- Covid Memorial Day will be considered.
- Staff were praised for their swift response and actions during recent storms

### **Housing & Quality of Life**

- No formal notification of housing grant funding has been received yet.
- Similarly funding for retrofitting units has not been announced, preparation on tenders has commenced to be ready once funding is known.
- Differential rent scheme is based on income, there is an onus on tenants to engage with the team.
- The number of families homeless in Louth continues to decrease.

### **Minute No. 24/22**

#### **Approval of Attendances at Conferences**

In accordance with S142 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Attendances at Conferences as notified to the Elected Members was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Seán Kelly

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey

And Resolved.

### **Minute No. 25/22**

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

In accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of Allocation of Members Community Grants as notified to the Elected Members was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Seán Kelly

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Emma Coffey

And Resolved.

### **Minute No. 26/22**

#### **Local Authority Lending - Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan and Local Authority Home Loan Allocation for 2022**

In accordance with Section 106 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, approval of the drawdown of €5,420,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the funding of Housing Loans for Private House Purchases/Constructions and for Housing Loans under the Tenant Incremental Purchase Scheme" for 2022. was

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marianne Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr Kevin Callan

And agreed.

### **Minute No. 27/22**

#### **SPC Annual Work Programme**

Members noted the SPC Annual Work Programme as presented.

### **Minute No. 28/22**

#### **Invitation to appoint a representative to Carlingford Lough Commission**

Members noted the invitation as issued to nominate a representative to the Carlingford Lough Commission.

It was proposed by Cllr. Kevin Meenan

And Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne

That Councillor Antóin Watters represent Louth County Council on this commission.

A counter proposal was submitted by Cllr Seán Kelly

And Seconded by Cllr. James Byrne

That Councillor Andrea McKeivitt represents Louth County Council on this commission

**A Roll Call Vote was held as follows:**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Cllr. Antóin Watters Nominee</b>	<b>Cllr. Andrea McKevitt Nominee</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Marianne Butler		1		
Paula Butterly		1		
James Byrne		1		
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan		1		
Emma Coffey		1		
Bernie Conlon		1		
Edel Corrigan				1
Tom Cunningham	1			
Maria Doyle		1		
Michelle Hall		1		
Conor Keelan		1		
Sean Kelly		1		
Fiachra MacRaghnaill				1
Pearse McGeough	1			
Andrea McKevitt		1		
Paddy McQuillan				1
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue		1		
Declan Power		1		
John Reilly		1		
Liam Reilly				1
Tomás Sharkey				1
John Sheridan				1
Pio Smith		1		
Jim Tenanty				1
Eileen Tully		1		
Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore		1		
	5	17	0	7

**And Cllr. A. McKevitt was deemed nominated.**

**Minute No. 29/22**

**Presentation on Draft River Basin Management Plan**

Catherine Duff gave Members a brief presentation o the Draft River Basin Management Plan as it applied to Louth which was well received.

## Minute No. 30/22

### Condolences

Sympathies were expressed for the family, friends and work colleagues of Wexford County Council worker, Billy Kinsella who was killed by a falling tree while on duty during Storm Eunice.

## Minute No. 31/22

### Congratulations

Congratulations were extended to Drogheda United for winning the Cup. The Cathaoirleach and Members noting the last council meeting of Director of Services Frank Pentony spoke to wish him well in his retirement, the Chief Executive joined in the tribute to Frank, noting his 46 years in the public service. Thanking Members for their kind words, Frank Pentony advised of having worked in 6 different Local Authorities during the years including 4 which were now abolished. Members also extended congratulations to Mary Deery who was also retiring.

## Minute No. 32/22

### Notice of Motion

**Proposed by: Cllr. Michelle Hall**  
**Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne**

*This motion requests that Louth County Council staff, management and elected representatives receive training in trauma-informed practices. Many of the people accessing a wide spectrum of services in LCC have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and/or trauma in their lives.*

*Trauma is a widespread, harmful and costly public health problem that impacts on every facet of society. The training would:*

- Embed ACEs and Trauma Informed Practice knowledge across Louth County Council to improve outcomes for children, families and adults who have been impacted by adversity.*
- Assist Louth County Council to continue to develop their workforces to raise awareness of childhood adversity and trauma sensitive approaches to practice through leadership, policy and practice."*

### **Reply from Mr. J. McGuinness, Director of Corporate and Emergency Services:**

The management and training of staff is a matter for the Chief Executive.

Speaking on the motion, Cllr. Michelle Hall noted the response but advised that trauma was everyone's business. Cllr. Joanna Byrne supported Cllr. Michelle Hall in the motion and advised that very sensitive issues come to councillors. This was also supported by Cllr. Maeve Yore and the Cathaoirleach.

**Minute No. 33/22**

**Notices of Motion from other Councils**

Correspondence on resolutions of other Councils as follows was noted by Members:

- Leitrim County Council 14th January 2022
- Waterford City and County Council 17th January 2022
- Sligo County Council 25th January 2022
- Galway County Council 25th January 2022
- Cork City Council 7th February 2022
- Sligo County Council 11th February 2022

**Minute No. 34/22**

**Correspondence**

Members noted the Correspondence as received

- Response from the Minister of Health Stephen Donnelly TD
- Response from Paul Fleming, Drogheda Port
- Response from Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth Roderic O'Gorman

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

21<sup>st</sup> March

Cathaoirleach:

Paul Smith

Meeting Administrator:

Aisling Nomeny