

## **Louth County Council Monthly Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in The Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk, Co. Louth on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10 a.m.

### **In attendance:**

**Presiding:** Councillor, Conor Keelan Cathaoirleach

**Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Fiachra MacRaghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Eileen Tully, Antoin Watters, Maeve Yore

**Apologies:** Councillors: Emma Coffey, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKevitt, Declan Power, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty

**Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive  
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services  
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator  
Bernie Woods, Director of Services  
Catherine Duff, Director of Services  
Colette Moss, A/Director of Services  
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner  
Paddy Connolly, Senior Executive Engineer  
Brona O'Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Michael McGrath, Senior Executive Engineer

### **Minute No. 112/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes – Annual Meeting**

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were  
**Proposed by** Cllr. John Reilly,  
**Seconded by** Cllr. Joanna Byrne  
and adopted.

### **Minute No. 113/22**

#### **Confirmation of Minutes – Ordinary Meeting**

Minutes of the Ordinary Monthly Meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were

**Proposed by** Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill,

**Seconded by** Cllr. Liam Reilly

and adopted.

### **Minute No. 114/22**

#### **Matters Arising**

An update on the following Minutes was requested

- Minute 108/22 – Irish Water attendance at meeting update – No response has been received.
- WW1 Memorial works – in negotiations with contractor.

### **Minute No. 115/22**

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

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd June 2022
- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th June 2022
- Borough District of Drogheda 13th June 2022

### **Minute No. 116/22**

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

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### **Minute No. 117/22**

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

The Cathaoirleach Conor Keelan advised Members that the July CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall.

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda by Joe McGuinness including:

- Two Section 85 agreements seeking approval
- The CE report on proposed variation to the Co. Dev. Plan based on new legislation which recalculates population growth
- Outstanding Reports of annual reporting of committee members to be heard at this the May meeting. it was agreed to remind Councillors of their obligations under Section 141 of Local Government Act.

Members were advised the Draft Development Contribution Scheme for North Drogheda was on Public Display

Members of the public are invited to make submissions on variations to Local Property Tax rates. The Chief Executive advised she will be pushing for a 15% increase in LPT.

The Members Communication Plan was noted. Members were reminded that Sugar was the way to make reps as this is monitored for responses.

Cllr Conor Keelan also advised Members of attendance of launched and events as follows

- Launch of new Potholing JCB Machine in Machinery Yard
- Launch of Dundalk Pride
- Attendance at award of MSPI certificate for Dundalk Museum in Kilkenny.

#### **Minute No. 118/22**

**Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Committee – N/A**

#### **Minute No. 119/22**

#### **Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended**

In accordance with S141 (1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, verbal reports were received on the activities of the following committees in the past year, by the following elected representatives:

<b>North East Regional Homeless Forum</b>	Cllr. C. Keelan
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The following is still outstanding:

<b>Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)</b>	Cllr. E. Tully
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**Minute No. 120/22**

**Meath County Council Section 85 agreement with Louth County Council - Footpath Rathmullan Road**

In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act as amended, approval of Louth County Council to enter into agreement with Meath County Council to allow Meath County Council to carry out works, and to give Meath County Council all the powers, duties and functions of Louth County Council as set out in the agenda as presented to members was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Liam Reilly

**Seconded by:** Cllr Paddy McQuillan

And resolved.

**Minute No. 121/22**

**Louth County Council Section 85 agreement with Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim County Council, Sligo and Donegal County Councils to deliver the FASTER project**  
In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act as amended, approval of Louth County Council to enter into agreement with **Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim County Council, Sligo and Donegal County Councils to deliver the FASTER project** on their behalf, and to give Louth County Council all the powers, duties and functions of **Monaghan, Cavan, Leitrim County Council, Sligo and Donegal County Councils** as set out in the agenda as presented to members was:

**Proposed by:** Cllr Marianne Butler

**Seconded by:** Cllr Maeve Yore

And resolved.

**Minute No. 122/22**

**CE Report on Submissions received to the proposed Variation No. 1 of the LCDP 2021-2027**

Following a presentation on the Chief Executive report on submissions received to the proposed Variation of the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 by Senior Planner

Joanna Kelly and discussion thereafter, a roll call vote to adopt the variation was held as follows:

<b>Name</b>	<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly		1		
Joanna Byrne	1			
James 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 McKeivitt				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			
	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

And the Variation was approved.

### Minute No. 123/22

#### **Vacancy for Chair of Planning and Infrastructure SPC**

Cllr Maria Doyle advised Members that due to change in personal work she would find it hard to attend Corporate Policy Group meetings and was therefore resigning as Chair of the SPC. Joe McGuinness Director of Services advised Members that arising from this resignation a vacancy now exists. The Grouping System does not apply to the election of a new Chairperson however the following members are excluded from voting as they, or their co-option nominee, originally formed a Group to elect a member. Those members are Cllrs. Joanna Byrne, Kevin Meenan, Tom Cunningham, Pearse McGeough, Edel Corrigan and Tomás Sharkey.

It was proposed that Cllr. John Reilly be appointed to the position of Chair of the SPC. This was

**Proposed by:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue

**Seconded by:** Cllr. Eileen Tully

And as there were no counter proposals and no objections, it was resolved that **Cllr. John Reilly be appointed Chair of the Planning and Infrastructure SPC.**

Members noting that this was a change to Cllr Reilly's SPC were advised that mutual arrangements between Members below Chair level would have to be accommodated thereafter, further info to issue.

### Minute No. 124/22

#### **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**

- Following completion of Cavan Hill/Staleen Water Treatment Plant taking in charge process Members enquired if Greenmount would be taken over by Louth County

Council and were advised that no, Irish Water would gradually be taking over all services and Louth County Council agreements with Irish Water were expected to cease early in 2023.

- Timing of water repair works during the tourist season in Omeath are a matter for the contractor and cannot be interfered with by Louth County Council.
- Members were advised of an appeal by Irish Water to conserve water during this heat wave.
- A request for an onsite visit by Irish Water to the Reservoir in Kilcurry will be passed on.
- Water pressure issues cited at Dowdallshill
- Louth Water section report on Capital programme works as they receive them from Irish Water

### **Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure – Operations and Waste Management**

- Another request for shortfall in funding for tourism info signage at Faughart made and request that signage at Castletown Motte would be in place before next St. Brigid's Day.
- PANCR update – CE optimistic that the new Dev Contribution Scheme will improve the chances of success. Discussions ongoing with an active group of developers and there is nothing to suggest it won't succeed.
- Members were advised officials would engage with owner re fencing at specific site of fall at Greenway but overall proposal for fencing on Greenway was with new Interreg which hasn't gone through yet. Members described this as a priority. There was a difference of opinion between the Members and officials as to whether fencing was included in the original scheme.
- Ardee Pedestrian Crossing also raised as priority by Members.
- Tenders being evaluated for Destination Town Signage in Drogheda.
- Active Travel queries will be referred to the team.
- The Council were thanked for their support of the Blessing of the Graves parish event in Dowdallshill
- An update on Mattress Amnesty Days for Dundalk and Drogheda was requested
- A suggestion that Louth copy Kerry County Council Dog Foul Pick up signs was made

Cllr. Joanna Byrne raised the issue of the Pride Rainbow Crossings and the life sized rainbow letters with the Chief Executive and expressed considerable annoyance at her handling of the matter.

The Chief Executive in response advised that she had raised a proposal at CPG regarding the life sized letters as a compromise but did not get an agreement to same. She also

said she had made it clear from the start that any level crossing had to be compliant with the rules and guidelines set out.

Cllr Byrne stated that this 'was an out and out lie', she claimed the Pride Letters were going ahead until Cllr Tenanty had asked for one in Ardee and that a conversation had been had around where to install them.

The matter was debated at some length.

The Chief Executive then said that she had nothing further to add to her previous responses.

Cllr Meenan then proposed to walk out, and Members started to leave.

The following Councillors remained in the Chamber but due to the number of absences and those who walked out a quorum could not be maintained and the meeting was then deemed abandoned in accordance with standing orders:

Councillors: John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Eileen Tully, Dolores Minogue, James Byrne, Conor Keelan, Paula Butterly and Tomas Sharkey.

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

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022  
Cathaoirleach: Conor Keelan  
Meeting Administrator: A. Sperry