

Council Meeting 20th June 2022

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting hosted in The Council Chamber Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday 20th June 2022 at 10 a.m. and also hosted over MS Teams.

In attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Conor Keelan Cathaoirleach

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

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 91/22

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 16th May 2022 were:

Proposed by Cllr. Pio Smith,

Seconded by Cllr. Andrea McKevitt

and adopted.

Minutes of the Special Meeting on Thursday 2nd June 2022 were:

Proposed by Cllr. Marianne Butler,

**Seconded by Cllr. Paula Butterly
and adopted.**

Minute No. 92/22

Matters Arising

An update on the following Minutes was requested

- Minute 83/22 – National Guidelines on Motorhomes, Camping, not yet received.
- WW1 Memorial works – updated design awaited from contractor.

Minute No.93/22

Minutes of Municipal District Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Municipal District of Dundalk 3rd May 2022
- Municipal District of Ardee 5th May 2022
- Borough District of Drogheda 9th May 2022

Minute No. 94/22

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 6th April 2022
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 4th May 2022
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 25th May 2022

Minute No. 95/22

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

Cllr Pio Smith advised that CPG Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda by Joe McGuinness including:

- Outstanding Reports of annual reporting of committee members to be heard at this meeting and that it had been agreed to remind Councillors of their obligations under Section 141 of Local Government Act.

Minute No. 96/22

Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Committee – Housing

Cllr Joanna Byrne reported that the Housing SPC had met on the 15th June in person which was the first face to face meeting in some time. The minutes of the 15th February were approved.

Among the items discussed, Members received presentations as follows:

- 'National Housing Strategy for Disabled People' overview from Arja Cullen, Social Worker
- 'Ardee Municipal Security Programme' – overview from Anna Marie McKeown
- 'Housing for All' update from Director of Services, Paddy Donnelly

The next meeting is planned for 13th September 2022.

Minute No. 97/22

Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Committee - Community, Quality of Life and Creativity

Cllr Paddy McQuillan reported that the Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC met on the 15th June.

- A presentation on the draft Louth Arts Development Plan was made by Acting Arts Officer, Moya Hodgers, which will have 5 themes and focus on Access, Inclusion and Young People.
- Brian Walsh, Museum Curator, gave an overview of the Museum Collection and included a brief on 'Museum – Standards and Accreditation' process as the Museum had recently retained MSPI standard.
- Paula Gribben, Administrative Officer presented the recently adapted 'Draft guidance document on works by community groups in the public realm' to Members.
- Confirmation of resignation of Cllr Emma Coffey as chair of the SPC was received and Cllr Coffey was thanked for the professional and efficient manner in which she

chaired the meeting over the last three years and in particular during the Covid pandemic.

Next meeting is scheduled for 14th September 2022

Minute No. 98/22

Report from Chairperson of Strategic Policy Committee – Planning & Support Infrastructure

Cllr Maria reported that the Planning & Support Infrastructure SPC had met on the 16th June via Zoom.

Among the items discussed:

- Thomas McEvoy, Acting Director had given Members an overview of Campervan Byelaws and a discussion ensued on private – v – public lands.
- John O’Hagan, Senior Engineer had provided an update on Drogheda Local Area Transport Plans, and a discussion on the possibility of Greenway rangers took place during AOB.

Minute No. 99/22

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:

Peace Partnership Board	Cllr. P. Smith
Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)	Cllr. E. Coffey

The following are still outstanding:

Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Cllr. E. Tully
North East Regional Homeless Forum	Cllr. C. Keelan

Minute No. 100/22

Annual Report 2021 for Adoption

The following changes were requested to the Annual Report by Cllr. Butler

- Page 54 – a photo of Dundalk to be input.
- A review of items in the Performance Indicators section; Page 165 refers to '.32wk avg to relet', and, the formatting of decimal points. *However, both come from the unaudited NOAC report, the figure is generated externally and could not be input locally, and the NOAC report cannot currently be amended or altered as the form is closed while NOAC is auditing.*

Adoption of the Report was proposed by Cllr. Marianne Butler, seconded by Cllr. James Byrne and resolved.

Minute No.101/22

Disposal of Land adjacent to St. Jude's, Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended, it was agreed the **disposal of Lands adjacent to St. Jude's, Trinity Street, Drogheda, Co. Louth** shall be carried out in accordance with terms specified in the resolution; This was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

And Resolved.

Minute No. 102/22

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. James Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

And Resolved.

Minute No.103/22

Allocation of Members Community Grants

(a) Stephenstown Pond - P. Donnelly, Director of Services

(b) Members Community Grants - J. McGuinness, Director of Services

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. Tomás Sharkey
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
And Resolved.

Following some queries raised on Stephenstown Pond by Cllr Yore, and where a call for a vote against grant funding to Stephenstown Pond was made by Cllr Yore but which was not supported by Members, Cllr Sharkey confirmed that he was happy that approval of Stephenstown Pond Grant met the criteria set out in Section 66 and if it required individual formal proposal, he **proposed** separate approval.
This was **Seconded by:** Cllr. Liam Reilly
And Resolved.

Minute No. 104/22

Change to Order of Business (Standing Order 11)

Following Tea break at 11a.m. and in accordance with Standing Order 11, the Chairman decided to take an item for consideration out of sequence as listed on the Agenda and requested that Members hear a presentation from a Deputation on behalf of Braymore Wind Park.

Minute No. 105/22

Deputation from Braymore Wind Farm

Deborah Coleman, External Affairs Manager (Offshore), and Martin Sweeney, Project Manager SSE gave Members a presentation on SSE onshore and offshore current and proposed Windfarm locations including Braymore Wind Park which is proposed to be located off the Louth Coast. A lively Q&A discussion took place after the presentation.

Minute No. 106/22

Vacancy for Chair of Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC

Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised Members that arising from the recent resignation of Councillor Emma Coffey as Chairperson of the Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC, 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 Sheridan be appointed to the position of Chair of the SPC. This was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Seán Kelly

Seconded by: Cllr. Liam Reilly

And as there were no counter proposals and no objections, it was resolved that **Cllr. John Sheridan be appointed Chair of the Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC**

Minute No. 107/22

Vacancy for Association of Irish Local Government (AILG) - Representative Ardee Municipal District

Director of Services Joe McGuinness advised Members that arising from the recent resignation of Councillor Paula Butterly from the role of Municipal Representative for Ardee Municipal District, a vacancy now exists. He further advised that the Grouping System does not apply to this vacancy and there is provision for one representative only from each Municipal District. The vacancy must be filled by a member of the Ardee Municipal District, however the nominating body is the County Council and not the Municipal District.

There were two valid nominations made to fill this vacancy:

Cllr Jim Tenanty

Proposed by: Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr John Sheridan

Cllr Pearse McGeough

Proposed by: Cllr Tom Cunningham

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

A roll call vote was held as follows:

Name	Nominee Jim Tenanty	Nominee Pearse McGeough
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	Absent		
Kevin Meenan			1
Dolores Minogue		1	
Declan Power		1	
John Reilly		1	
Liam Reilly		1	
Tomás Sharkey			1
John Sheridan		1	
Pio Smith	Absent		
Jim Tenanty		1	
Eileen Tully		1	
Antóin Watters			1
Maeve Yore	Abstain		
		19	7

And Cllr Jim Tenanty was approved to fill the vacancy.

Minute No. 108/22

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

- Members expressed ongoing frustration at discoloration of water in various locations and asked if this was part of the targeted Flushing Programme and when it would cease. Bernie Woods, Director of Services advised public to report all issues should be reported through the Irish Water website as a capital programme was required to replace pipes.
- A request was made for Irish Water to attend a meeting with Members.
- Completion of Staleen Water Treatment Plant taking in charge process expected by 30th June
- Well grant funding is for domestic premises only and criteria is set by the Dept.

Economic Enterprise, Planning & Infrastructure – Operations and Waste Management

- Members were advised that further to previous notification of amalgamation and changes to Directorships, it had been decided to instigate the amalgamation of Operations and Infrastructure early and Catherine Duff Director would take queries on both Infrastructure and Operations under this heading.
- A request was made for a briefing to be given to Members by the public realm team on St. Nicholas Quarter.
- LIHAF timeline has been extended to 22nd June for contractors to look at tender.
- Destination Towns Scheme did not receive any valid tender and has had to be retendered.
- A request for a defibrillator on the Greenway might be best referred during the public consultation phase.
- Members requested a presence of an Elected Member on the Boyne Valley Tourism Board.
- Bellurgan speed issues will be referred to An Garda Síochána.
- A suggestion was made that an overall assessment be made of required safety and traffic calming measures at all schools in County.
- A request for shortfall in funding for tourism info signage at Faughart would directly affect two other counties who are also receiving LEADER funding as part of a joint application. Louth cannot move on its own.
- The WWI memorial which was subject to an alleged copyright infringement was discussed at length. Members who had sat on a committee previously formed by Dundalk Town Council advised they had expected to be consulted on the works. Members were advised that the Memorial went to competition and reparation is a matter for the Monument Company who were the successful tender and were commissioned to carry out works under competition. They are required to make this right at no cost to the Council, EU or public.

Corporate & Emergency Services

- Members welcomed recent energy saving measures employed at council buildings and suggested that perhaps electricity could be sold back to the grid where possible.
- A suggestion was made that bicycle racks be installed in front of council buildings to encourage greener staff mobility and surveys carried out to determine travel methods to work.
- The Varcities project will come before Dundalk MD Councillors at July meeting.
- Dunleer Fire Station is progressing.
- Beach Lifeguards are deployed weekends only during June and September, and daily during July and August at designated bathing areas at Templetown, Port and Clogherhead beaches.

Housing & Quality of Life

- A report on disability adaptation requests by council tenants was requested.
- Louth Housing Section does not have data on HAP payment plans stopped by Limerick HAP office, but will ask to see if they can get figures.
- Members noted good works carried out by Homeless Team and on Retrofit Scheme.
- Tenant Purchase is still available to eligible applicants.
- Landbanks are subject to ongoing observation to determine housing and other need.

Minute No. 109/22

Suspension of Standing Orders as allowed under Standing Order no. 24

During the Meeting, as time was running out, the Cathaoirleach asked Members if they wished to propose to suspend Standing Order 3 to extend the time of the meeting by 20 minutes.

It was so proposed to suspend Standing Orders by Cllr. Marianne Butler, and this was seconded by Cllr. Antóin Watters, and as no Member objected on questioning, it was so resolved.

Minute No. 110/22

Correspondence – Noted

Members noted the following Correspondence which issued

- Response from Simon Coveney TD 09-05-2022
- Letter from Pieta House 31.5.2022

Minute No. 111/22

Motions from other Councils– Noted

Members noted the following Resolutions as received

- Cavan County Council 17th May 2022
- Clare County Council 18th May 2022
- Galway County Council 27th May 2022

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

18 July 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Caoimhín Keenan

Meeting Administrator:

A. J. Quinlan