

Council Meeting 16th May 2022

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held wholly in person in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk.

In attendance:

Presiding: Cathaoirleach: Councillor Pio Smith

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Maria Doyle, Michelle Hall, Sean Kelly, Fiachra Mac Raghnaill, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Conor Keelan, Paddy McQuillan, Dolores Minogue, Liam Reilly, Antoin Watters

Officials: Chief Executive - Joan Martin
Directors of Services - Joe McGuinness, Paddy Donnelly, Catherine Duff, Thomas McEvoy (Acting)
Meetings Administrator - Gráinne Tuomey
Senior Planner - Joanna Kelly
Senior Engineers - John O'Hagan, Martina Sheeran
Executive Planner - Peadar McQuaid
Accountants - Brian Lynch, Róisín McAuley

Minute No. 76/22

Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on Monday 25th April 2022 were

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
and adopted.

Minute No. 77/22

Minutes of Municipal District Meetings - Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Borough District of Drogheda 4th April 2022
- Municipal District of Dundalk 5th April 2022
- Municipal District of Ardee 7th April 2022

Minute No. 78/22

Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted

The following Minutes were Noted by Members:

- Louth/ Newry Mourne and Down Strategic Alliance of Elected Members between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Louth County Council Meeting 23rd February 2022
- Audit Committee Meeting 24th February 2022

Minute No. 79/22

Nomination of Members to the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board

Following discussion on the background and process of nomination to this board, it was

Proposed by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan

Seconded by: Cllr. Jim Tenanty

And agreed that the nomination process should be carried out at Municipal District level.

Minute No. 80/22

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

Cllr. Jim Tenanty who had chaired the CPG in Cllr. Pio Smith's absence informed the members that the April CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 13th April 2022 in the Setanta Room, County Hall.

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 the May meeting. it was agreed to remind Councillors of their obligations under Section 141 of Local Government Act 2001 as amended.
- Drogheda Port attendance was a statutory provision under the Harbours Act, 2015.

It was agreed to meet the Dundalk MD Members on St. Brigid's Commemoration proposals.

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

It was agreed that the elected rep's email would be circulated.

Minute No. 81/22

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:

An Tain Arts Centre	Cllr. John Reilly
Governance/Oversight Committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor	Cllr. S. Kelly

The following are still outstanding:

Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA)	Cllr. C. Keelan Cllr. E. Coffey
Local Authority Members Association (LAMA)	Cllr. E. Tully
North East Regional Homeless Forum	Cllr. C. Keelan
Peace Partnership Board	Cllr. A. McKeivitt Cllr. P. Smith Cllr. D. Minogue

Minute No. 82/22

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. Emma Coffey

Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore

And Resolved.

Minute No. 83/22

Breithniú ar Thuarascálacha agus ar Chomhréitigh ón bPríomhfheidhmeannach / Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive

Monthly Management Report

- Finance and Water Services
- Economic Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure
- Operations and Waste Management
- Corporate and Emergency Services
- Housing and Quality of Life

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

Finance and Water Services

- Completion of Staleen Water Treatment Plant taking in charge process expected by 30th June
- Targeted Flushing Programme commencing soon to tackle discolouration of supply
- Greenmount ongoing, planning considerations
- €50m national fund for rural development is for wastewater and not drinking water
- Clarity sought on shortages of water in Marian Park Drogheda and on Fishermans Club Agreement renewal

Economic Enterprise, Planning and Infrastructure

- Town & Village Renewal Scheme projects are put forward by Community Groups, Louth County Council assist groups but ultimately it is up to community groups to ensure all criteria are met. It is regrettable where all available funding is not drawn down, but it is outside the control of council
- Page 19 of the CE report referring to footpaths under the Town & Village Renewal scheme omits Dromiskin
- Due diligence exercise is underway on Harbours Act 2015 clause which allows transfer of assets from Ports to council before any action decided – legislation states 'may' rather than 'shall'. Three government departments are involved: Marine, Housing and DPER. Expert advice is being sought on legal and marine
- Greenway Compulsory Purchase Order is with An Bord Pleanála
- Active Travel is with NTA to review
- The Chief Executive advised that a draft Development Contribution Scheme from Rosehall roundabout to the Railway line would ringfence contributions to pay for phase I of the PANCR (Port Access Network Cross Route)
- WWI memorial expected to be ready for Thursday's memorial
- National overview being undertaken on Motorhome, Caravan parking. Executive await guidance

Housing and Quality of Life

- HAP is centrally controlled by Limerick. Payment Plans are based on individual ability to pay. Tenant responsibility is to ensure rent is paid. Once a payment plan is broken, HAP office do not re-engage. Number of tenants on payment plans will be requested from Limerick.
- Housing Action plan will be published in Quarter 2, target figures will be confirmed within plan
- Electricity supply issues at Woodland Park Traveller Accommodation units are affecting draw down of funding from Department to heat water
- All housing grant figures are based on priority 1 need. Occupational therapists assess.
- Anti-Social Behaviour is often repeated behaviour by small number of tenants. Officials work with An Garda Síochána to tackle incidents. An active Tenancy Training programme is run by housing.

Operations and Waste Management

- Bin removal at Faughart Graveyard - update will issue on whether replacement is forthcoming
- CCTV national guidelines still awaited
- Dumping of animals in river is a matter for various bodies depending on lands, water source etc
- Suggestion made that picture of damage to dog caused by shock collar on page 49 of CE report could be used as an awareness campaign
- Illegal diesel laundering sludge containers bursting from cube on lands, waters at Drumgooley will be investigated
- Suggestion that Four provinces flags appearing throughout the county and further may have sinister intention. Removal will be considered
- Consultation open on Bathing Waters - submissions welcome

Corporate and Emergency Services

- Recruitment of Emergency Fire Services personnel is an ongoing issue which is under constant review and is a matter for the Executive

Minute No. 84/22

Attendance of Chief Executive of Drogheda Port as required under Section 23 of the Harbour's Act, 2015

Dr. Joe Hiney, Director and Mr. Paul Fleming, Chief Executive of Drogheda Port attended the meeting. Dr. Hiney gave Members an in-depth presentation which was well received. Members were advised of certain restrictions within the Harbour Acts on contents of the presentation, e.g. disclosure of commercially sensitive information was an offence under the 1996 Act. A Q&A session followed the presentation.

Minute No. 85/22

Arts Grants for Noting

Members noted the proposed Arts Grant allocations as presented.

Minute No. 86/22

Notices of Motion from other Councils

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

- Wexford County Council 26th April 2022

There being no other business, the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

20 June 2022

Cathaoirleach:

Councillor Keenan

Meeting Administrator:

A. J. Quinlan