



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council Monthly Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 17th April 2023, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

- Presiding:** Councillor, Conor Keelan - Cathaoirleach
- Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Andrea McKeivitt, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore
- Apologies:** Councillors: Dolores Minogue, Liam Reilly
- Vacancy:** Seat vacated by Maria Doyle
- Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Bryan Coughlan, A/Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Service
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Adrian O'Sullivan, Road Safety Officer
Brian Lynch, Accountant
Róisín McAuley, Accountant

Minute No. 47/23

Minutes from meeting held on 20th March 2023

Proposed by Cllr Bernie Conlon
Seconded by Cllr Michelle Hall
And Approved

Minute No. 48/23

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd March 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th March 2023

Minute No. 49/23

Minutes of Committee Meetings – Noted

- Corporate Policy Group 8th March 2023

Minute No. 50/23

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Conor Keelan advised Members the monthly CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 5th April in the Setanta Room, County Hall.

Members were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including (but not exclusively):

- The Annual Financial Statement is before Members for approval
- A nominee has still to be provided for the Casual Vacancy following Cllr Doyle's resignation
- Responsibility of Members under S141 to report annually on activities of committees, and quarterly on attendance including a nil report
- Upcoming changes to the S183 disposal process whereby the Land Development Agency will get first choice of any disposal, and that the Machinery Yard was identified as one of four parcels for Land Development in Dundalk
- The Draft Annual report is required to be brought before Members for noting by end of April. Full Report will go on June agenda
- Approval was given to bring grants to Council

Other items were discussed including

- A face to face workshop with a new Uisce Éireann rep after the May meeting was agreed
- A training plan is to be prepared for Members

Minute No. 51/23

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

Cllr John Sheridan advised Members the latest Community Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC was held in person on Wednesday 22nd March in Ardee Library. He thanked the library for accommodating the meeting and encouraged all to use the facilities available in the library.

Items discussed included but were not limited to:

A presentation was given by Moya Hodgers, Arts Officer on Louth County Council Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027, followed by a Q&A session

Finbar Gethins Senior Executive Officer presented a paper to Members on where Play & Recreation plan best fits as an outcome of the Local Economic and Community Plan which is currently being developed. As the Play & Recreation Plan is also inter linked with various other plans & strategies

the committee examined how all these plans interrelate and work together to support the overall development of the county. It was agreed that by co-ordinating and aligning these plans a more comprehensive play and recreation plan could be developed.

It was agreed that a Doodle Poll would be held to determine the best time and day for meetings of the Committee for the rest of the year, to optimise the attendance of members of the Committee.

Minute No. 52/23

Vacancy - Housing Strategic Policy Committee

A vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee occurred on foot of Cllr Fiachra MacRaghnaill's resignation from council in accordance with S19 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

Cllr Emma Cutlip was nominated to replace Cllr MacRaghnaill on the Housing SPC. This was:

Proposed by: Cllr Michelle Hall

Seconded by: Cllr Pio Smith

And resolved.

Minute No. 53/23

Vacancy – Community & Quality of Life Strategic Policy Committee

Arising from the recent resignation of Mr. Colin Roche a vacancy existed on the Community and Quality of Life SPC. Ms. Lorna Costelloe was nominated to replace Colin Roche as Community SPC-PPN Social Inclusion Representative. Ratification of the nomination was:

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr John Sheridan

And resolved.

Minute No. 54/23

Vacancy on the Governance/Oversight Committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor

A vacancy on the Governance/Oversight Committee of the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor occurred due to the resignation of Cllr Fiachra MacRaghnaill from Council. Cllr MacRaghnaill represented Drogheda Borough District on the committee along with one other member from each of the Municipal Districts.

At the April Meeting of Drogheda Borough District on the 3rd April, Nomination of Cllr Emma Cutlip to the committee was proposed, seconded and agreed.

Ratification of the nomination was:

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Seán Kelly

And resolved.

Minute No. 55/23

2022 Annual Financial Statement

Members considered the Draft Annual Financial Statements for 2022 as set before them, under Section 108 of the Local Government Act, 2001 and the requirement to approve same, in accordance with Section 104 of the same Act

Following some discussion on the item, approval of

- the revised expenditure for the financial year ended 31st December 2022 as set out in Note 16 to the Accounts and
- the transfers to and from Capital as per the report was

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr Bernie Conlon

And resolved.

Minute No. 56/23

Draft Louth County Council Annual Report 2022 for noting in accordance with S221(b) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended – Noted

Members noted the Draft Annual Report as set before them and were advised that the final Annual Report would be before them for approval at the June meeting.

Minute No. 57/23

Annual Reports of the Audit Committee in relation to activities in 2022

Members considered the Audit Committee Annual Report as set before them, pursuant to Article 13 & 15 of the Local Government (Audit Committee) Regulations, 2014 and queries were raised around Value for Money, Cyber security and meta compliance training for Councillors which were responded to by officials.

Adoption of the Audit Committee Annual Work Programme 2023 to Council Pursuant to Article 9 without amendment was:

Proposed by: Cllr Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr John Sheridan

And resolved.

Minute No. 58/23

Allocation of Members Community Grants provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

And resolved

Minute No. 59/23

Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Proposed by Cllr Kevin Callan
Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt
And resolved

Minute No. 60/23

Provision of Assistance for promotion of interest in local Community Groups or Projects, provided for under Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2001

Approval of Amenity Grants as set out before Members was:

Proposed by Cllr Antóin Watters
Seconded by Cllr Andrea McKeivitt
And resolved

Minute No. 61/23

Disposal of lands at Balriggeran, Kilcurry, Dundalk to Colin Marmion

In accordance with S163 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended, approval of the disposal of lands at Balriggeran, Kilcurry, Dundalk as set out before Members was:

Proposed by Cllr Emma Coffey
Seconded by Cllr Conor Keelan
And resolved

Minute No. 62/23

Section 141 Reports 2023 - Compliance with Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended

In compliance with S141 of the Local Government Act, 2001 as amended Elected Members are required to report on the activities and operations of Bodies, Boards and Committees to which they are elected, appointed or nominated to represent Louth County Council, annually or if so requested by resolution or Cathaoirleach.

At the April meeting Members received reports from Members of the following committees:

- Louth Drugs & Alcohol Forum
- Dundalk BIDS Company
- Local Sports Partnership
- East Border Region

Minute No. 63/23

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Members considered the Report as presented to them, raised questions and received responses from the Executive.

The following items were highlighted under the relevant Directorates:

Support Services

Members were advised a Service Level Agreement was in place with Uisce Éireann until June
Council chambers are being assessed for the provision of Hybrid Meetings

Strategic Economic Development

The breakdown of monetary cost of the trip to New York for St. Patrick's Day has not been compiled yet. However many Members and Officials spoke on the benefits to the County of networking and representing Louth in New York.

Sanction has been received for at Nighttime Economy Officer

Conveyancing is continuing on site for Dunleer Fire Station

St Peter's Hill Place seating is to be installed outside the wall

No circular has been received on changes to Short Term Letting planning legislation

Placemaking & Physical Development

The N2 road scheme is led by Monaghan County Council, however it was agreed that Placemaking would write to all Ministers and the TII regarding progression of the scheme

Phase 1 of St. Nicholas Quarter tender is complete, consultant is due to be appointed

Consideration is being given to the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer

Organisational Development

No grids will be installed by Louth County Council on commonage roads

A request was made to allow Councillors access to use the stairs rather than lifts to chamber to save energy

Social Development

Presenters due to eviction will mainly be accommodated through HAP and the HAP Placefinder. A number may not be eligible due to income limits

36no. units are under consideration for the Housing in Situ scheme, some exception may be made to unit need versus unit size where tenants are in situ and could otherwise face homelessness

Housing Grant prioritization will direct funding distribution

Solidarity was expressed to Library Staff on abuse over social media about LGBT+ inclusion events

Minute No. 64/23

Road Safety Plan 2023 to 2024

Road Safety Officer Adrian O'Sullivan gave members an informative presentation on Louth County Council Road Safety Plan 2023 to 2024 which was well received. Members were advised this was phase 1 of a overall plan to 2030 with phase 2 due to run from 2025 – 2027, and phase 3 from 2028 – 2030. Queries were raised and responded to including around e-scooters, and training for cyclists and motorists.

Minute No. 65/23

Congratulations

Members congratulated:

- Drogheda and Lourdes Brass Bands on placing first and second respectively at the National Band Championships of Ireland in Athlone
- Louth County Council on the successful visit of President Joe Biden to the county, Paddy Donnelly on organizing and the Gardaí on putting it all together – Paddy Donnelly advised of a team effort of all directorates

Minute No. 66/23

Condolences

Members expressed condolences to the family and friends of

- Former Town and County Councillor Jim Ryan
- Geraldine Mc Cullagh who was very active in community efforts around Stephenstown Pond and Knockbridge

Minute No. 67/23

Notice of Motion Cllr Tom Cunningham

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

“Clogherhead Coast Guard are seeking to build a new Coast Guard station. Can Louth County Council provide a plot of land, out of the unused Council owned land at Port Oriel, that the Coast Guard can purchase and build a new modern station.

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

Louth County Council have engaged with the Irish Coastguard on the sourcing of a site for their Clogherhead unit and any site identified this will be considered within the overall plans of Louth County Council for our land assets.

Minute No. 68/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr Kevin Callan

Seconded by: Cllr Joanna Byrne

Requesting that their Council make contact with the Office of Public Works to request action be taken to preserve and shelter the Celtic High Crosses in situ at Monasterboice in the County of Louth.

That these high crosses, including the internationally famous Muiredachs Cross have been substantially weathered and eroded over the past 100 years when compared to a full-scale cast that was made in 1903 and are currently at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. That the Council request The OPW consider a similar type of covering as is in operation over similar crosses at locations like Clonmacnoise and Kells.

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

Louth County Council will enter into discussions with the OPW to progress the matter.

Minute No. 69/23

Notice of Motion – Cllr Maeve Yore – withdrawn prior to any resolution

Minute No. 70/23

Notice of Question - Cllr Declan Power

"Can Louth County Council provide the number of Rural Housing applications and their location that successfully received planning permission and the number of unsuccessful applications to build their family homes in North, Mid and South Louth in 2021 and 2022?"

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

This will not be available until May meeting.

Minute No. 71/23

Correspondence Noted

- Tipperary County Council 14th March 2023
- Tipperary County Council 14th March 2023
- Clare County Council 14th March 2023
- Sligo County Council 16th March 2023
- Wexford County Council 22nd March 2023
- Offaly County Council 3rd April 2023

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

15/05/23

Cathaoirleach:

AM [Signature]

Meeting Administrator:

[Signature]