



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council June Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted in the Council Chamber of Co. Hall, Dundalk on Monday, 19th June 2023, immediately following the Annual Meeting at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor - Cathaoirleach Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Conor Keelan, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKevitt, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Robert Nash, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey Edel Corrigan, Jim Tenanty

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
John Lawrence, A/Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Willie Walsh, A/Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Service
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Turlough King, Senior Executive Planner
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer

Minute No. 97/23

Minutes from meeting held on 15th May 2023

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKevitt
And Approved

Minute No. 98/23

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Borough District of Drogheda 3rd April 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 4th April 2023

- Municipal District of Ardee 4th May 2023

Minute No. 99/23

Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted

- Climate Change and Energy SPC 30th January 2023
- Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC 22nd March 2023
- Corporate Policy Group 3rd May 2023

Minute No. 100/23

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

As former Chair of the CPG, Cllr Conor Keelan updated Elected Members on items discussed in both May and June Corporate Policy Group Meetings.

Following some items raised by Members, clarification was given by the Chief Executive that she had requested it inserted into the May minutes that the Cathaoirleach had been unhappy with the decision to withdraw a motion from the Clár.

Minute No. 101/23

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

Cllr Joanna Byrne advised Members that the latest Housing SPC meeting was held on the 16th May 2023, at which Cllr Cutlip was welcomed to her first SPC meeting and Director of Services Paddy Donnelly was thanked for his service as it was his last meeting. Cllr Byrne delivered a comprehensive report on items discussed at the meeting, including but not limited to, housing grants, annual targets for delivery, cross boundary allocations, acquisition of HAP properties.

Cllr John Sheridan advised Members the latest Community Community, Quality of Life and Creativity SPC was held in person on 7th June in the Town Hall. He advised Members of presentations received on LGBTQ+ from Bernadine Quinn Outcomers and on encouraging community engagement from Ben Malone Community Water Officer.

Minute No. 102/23

Vacancy – Cathaoirleach of Community & Quality of Life Strategic Policy Committee

Arising from the recent resignation of Cllr John Sheridan as Chair of the Community & Quality of Life Strategic Policy Committee, Cllr Seán Kelly was nominated as his replacement. This was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
And resolved.

Minute No. 103/23

Vacancy – Membership of the Local Community Development Committee

A vacancy on the Local Community Development Committee occurred due to the resignation of Ms. Joanne Finnegan as Community and Voluntary Pillar Representative. Acceptance of the nomination of Ms. Jasmine Matthew as her replacement was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
And resolved.

Minute No. 104/23

Louth County Council Annual Report 2022 for adoption in accordance with S221(a) of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended

Having previously noted the Draft Report in the April Meeting, Members now considered the Louth County Council Annual Report 2022 as presented to them for adoption. Following much discussion on this item, it was agreed to adopt the Annual Report subject the inclusion of photographs and unaudited NOAC performance indicators as:

Proposed by: Cllr Eileen Tully
Seconded by: Cllr Liam Reilly
And resolved.

Minute No. 105 /23

Freastal ar Chomhdhálacha a Cheadú / Approval of Attendance at Conferences

Proposed by: Cllr Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr Michelle Hall
And resolved

Minute No. 106/23

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

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr: Eileen Tully
And resolved

Minute No. 107/23

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.

No reports were given but Members advised of the following items:

- ALLG – Members suggested that Cllr. Jim Tenanty had previously reported on same
- Rural Water Programme – Cllr. Cunningham advised no meetings had been held at all
- Irish Public Bodies – Members were advised that Cllr. Pío Smith is the rep and not Cllr. Michelle Hall
- LAMA – Cllr. Tully advised she had missed the last meeting but would seek update
- East Border Region – Cllr. Hall advised that no meetings had been held since January

Minute No. 108/23

Louth County Council, Housing Estates Special Speed Limit Draft Bye Laws 2023

Members discussed the Bye Laws as presented to them, and Willie Walsh Senior Executive Officer and Joan Martin Chief Executive responded to queries raised.

It was agreed to defer the item until July in order to get further clarification on some items raised. This was:-

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler

Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

And resolved.

Minute No. 109/23

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executive 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

It was suggested that contradictory information was given to Members at a recent Uisce Éireann (UE) workshop as opposed to that given on News on a Page. Members were advised data on News on a Page is taken from UE directly but this would be checked.

Strategic Economic Development

The County Development Plan will have a 2 year review in November, followed by a 4 year review thereafter.

Economic Development are working with Fáilte Ireland to capitalise on tourism and footfall of the 'Biden Bounce'.

Fáilte Ireland are looking to develop National Guidelines on Caravan and Camp sites.

A design team and funding are in place for Dunleer Fire Station.

The joint Drogheda Local Area Plan with Meath County Council is still on hold while awaiting

resolution of court proceedings in which Meath are involved.

Boyne Valley Tourism reps are under discussion.

Placemaking & Physical Development

Placemaking are moving away from glyphosate and spraying where possible, a suggestion was made that efforts are to encourage tidy town and community groups to follow suit.

Cllr. Sharkey raised a complaint about lack of communication from An Bord Pleanála on the N53 Public Toilets while provided in the main towns are often targets for vandalism and anti-social behaviour, there are no plans for provision of extra toilets.

Organisational Development

Planned industrial action that would affect how member reps were treated has been deferred.

Reference to Chairman instead of Chairperson was noted on items and will be addressed in all documents.

Issues with Online booking at Lourdes Stadium will be investigated.

Social Development

Grant applicants who have had applications returned may be reconsidered if resources later allow. Grant recipients are assessed on specific individual accessibility needs.

Minute No. 110/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Conor Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. John Sheridan

That this Council agrees that council tenants are automatically transferred onto the electoral register upon taking up a tenancy.

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

Only individuals can register to be included on the Register of Electors and this is now done through a statutory application form. Registration Authorities have no power or right to enter a person on the Register without the completion of the application form and declaration. I can confirm however that all new tenants are supplied with this application form on receipt of a tenancy.

Minute No. 111/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Conor Keelan

Seconded by: Cllr. John Sheridan

"That Louth County Council stands in solidarity with library staff - both in Louth and nationally - who have been subjected to personal abuse, disruptive protests and endured intimidation in the course of their work. We fully support and pledge to protect our libraries as places of diversity and inclusion for all.

Furthermore, we express our full support and solidarity with the LGBT+ community and decry attempts to censor and erase materials that provide representation to young LGBT+ library users.

And that this motion be sent to all other local authorities.

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

This is a matter for the members

Speaking in support of this motion Members stressed the importance of libraries as free safe spaces, and places of sanctuary. Cllr Sheridan thanked Members for their collective support as they had wished him well on his upcoming nuptials to his partner Dean.

Minute No. 112/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Kevin Callan – Deferred to July meeting as Cllr. Callan was absent

Minute No. 113/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Seconded by: Cllr Antóin Watters

County Councillors in Louth call on the Minister for Local Government and the Minister for Public Expenditure to provide the funding necessary to sustain and enhance the Retained Fire Service nationwide, for now and for future generations.

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

This is a matter for the members.

Cllr. Byrne spoke of the high percentages of the workforce predicted to leave in the next five years and she and other members spoke in support of the fire service and reform of the retained service to encourage retention.

Minute No. 114/23

Notice of Motion: Cllr. Declan Power

Seconded by: Cllr Tom Cunningham

That Louth County Council write to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage to enhance better measures to protect our Thatched Cottages, including increased funding for roof maintenance and better protection with Insurance cover.

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Strategic Economic Development

This is a matter for the Members.

Speaking on the motion Cllr. Power spoke of the cultural and historical importance of thatched cottages, a sentiment which was echoed by other Members present.

Minute No. 115/23

Question: Cllr. Emma Cutlip – Noted

"To ask the council as to the numbers of apprentices hired on a quarterly basis over the last 5 years and future intention for such hires in tabular form"

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Organisational Development

Staffing is an executive matter.

Minute No. 116/23

Question: Cllr. James Byrne

"Can Louth County Council provide a breakdown of the planning permissions granted and refused since the adoption of the County Development Plan 2021-2027 to the present day for Rural Policy Zones 1 and 2 under each of the qualifying criteria applicable to both zones?"

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services Strategic Economic Development

This will not be available until the July meeting.

Minute No. 117/23

Question: Cllr. Tomas Sharkey – Noted

"How many expressions of interest to purchase land / property were received by Louth County Council in 2020, 2021 and 2022? How many properties were advertised for sale in each of these years and how many of each led to a Section 183 being brought to council for adoption?"

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services Organisational Development

<i>2020 Requests</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>No. of properties advertised for sale</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Requests which proceeded to S183</i>	<i>1</i>

<i>2021 Requests</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>No. of properties advertised for sale</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Requests which proceeded to S183</i>	<i>4</i>

<i>2022 Requests</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>No. of properties advertised for sale</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Requests which proceeded to S183</i>	<i>3</i>

Minute No. 118/23

Question: Cllr. Tomas Sharkey

"How many proposed motions to council has the executive received legal opinion when considering setting the meeting agendas in each of the following years: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021,2022? How many motions did the executive exclude from meeting agendas in each of the years 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021,2022?"

Reply: Joe McGuinness, Director of Services Organisational Development

The Council do not formally record such matters.

Congratulations

Members congratulated:

- Cllr John Sheridan and his partner Dean on their upcoming nuptials
- Scoil Mhuire na nGael in Bay Estate on receiving a Green Flag award
- Naoimh Finbars on winning the Under 14 Division
- The 73 athletes of Team Ireland that have gone to the World Games in Berlin. Especially Cllr. Kevin Meenan's nephew James Meenan from Dundalk. (Football)
- Bellurgan United U16 Boys who were crowned North Leinster Champions

Minute No. 119/23

Condolences

Members expressed condolences to the family and friends of:-

- Tomás Ó hEochaidh who was described as a young at heart Gaeilgeoir, who had a passion for sharing the Irish language and culture and a love for the GAA and politics, having ran twice for Louth County Council
- Daphne Boyle, Blackrock who had served on the Traveller Consultative Committee
- Geraldine McCullagh who was very active in community efforts around Stephenstown Pond and Knockbridge

Minute No. 120/23

Correspondence Noted

- Clare Co. Council 9th May 2023
- Kerry Co. Council 16th May 2023
- Kerry County Council 16th May 2023
- Letter to Peter Walsh, Chief Executive, TII 23rd May 2023

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

17 July 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Buckley

Meeting Administrator:

A. Quomey