



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, 20th March 2023, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Councillor, Andrea McKeivitt – Leas Cathaoirleach

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Pearse McGeough, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, John Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pío Smith, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully, Antóin Watters

Apologies: Councillors: Conor Keelan, Liam Reilly, Bernie Conlon, Paddy McQuillan, Maeve Yore

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer

Minute No. 29/23

Minutes from meeting held on 16th January 2023

Proposed by Cllr Seán Kelly
Seconded by Cllr Pío Smith
And Approved

Minute No. 30/23

Notice of Emergency Business – Cllr. Joanna Byrne

Proposed by Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr. Michelle Hall
And Approved

In line with Standing Orders, a roll call vote was required as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Butler, Marianne	1			
Butterly, Paula		1		
Byrne, James	1			
Byrne, Joanna	1			
Callan, Kevin	1			
Coffey, Emma				1
Conlon, Bernie				1
Corrigan, Edel				1
Cunningham, Tom	1			
Doyle, Maria				1
Hall, Michelle	1			
Keelan, Conor				1
Kelly, Sean	1			
McGeough, Pearse	1			
McKevitt, Andrea	1			
McQuillan, Paddy				1
Meenan, Kevin	1			
Minogue, Dolores				1
Power, Declan	1			
Reilly, John		1		
Reilly, Liam				1
Sharkey, Tomás				1
Sheridan, John	1			
Smith, Pio	1			
Tenanty, Jim	1			
Tully, Eileen				1
Watters, Antoin	1			
Yore, Maeve				1

Following the vote, it was agreed that the Motion would be heard. The Leas Cathaoirleach advised that the motion would be heard later in the meeting.

Minute No. 31/23

Casual Vacancy – Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill

In accordance with the provisions of Section 19 (2) of the Local Government Act 2001, a casual vacancy has occurred in the membership of Louth County Council by reason of Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill resigning from Louth County Council.

Proposed by Cllr. Michelle Hall

Seconded by Cllr. Pio Smith

And resolved:

That Emma Cutlip shall fill the casual vacancy on Louth County Council arising from the resignation of Cllr. Fiachra MacRaghnaill.

Minute No. 32/23

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Borough District of Drogheda 9th January 2023
- Municipal District of Ardee 2nd February 2023
- Municipal District of Dundalk 7th February 2023
- Borough District of Drogheda 13th February 2023

Minute No. 33/23

Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted

- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 8th February 2023

Minute No. 34/23

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

Leas Cathaoirleach Andrea McKeivitt informed members that the CPG meeting was held in person at 9.00 am on Wednesday 8th March in the Setanta Room, County Hall. As the Cathaoirleach was unable to attend the meeting, Cllr. McKeivitt chaired the meeting.

Attendees at the CPG were given a briefing on all items in the Council Agenda including:

- The Casual Vacancy following Cllr Mac Raghnaill's resignation
- Responsibility of Members under S141 to report annually on activities of committees, and quarterly on attendance including a nil report
- Approval of Members is required for the Home Loan drawdown and for 2 land disposals
- The LCDC report is for noting
- Approval was given to bring grants to Council

Other items discussed included:

- Uisce Éireann to be advised their online workshops would be accommodated prior to Council meeting as per their request
- Remaining SPC annual work programme updates to be given at next CPG meeting by Chairs
- Members must report items on the SUGAR system before raising at MD meetings. It was clarified that items should only be raised at MD if not already answered on sugar, or Members are not happy with the answer or where an urgent matter occurs that couldn't have been raised prior to the meeting.
- Cllr John Reilly gave a report to CPG on the planned annual work programme of the Planning. Items for discussion in 2023 are
 - Local Areas Plan – Drogheda & Dundalk
 - Input in to review of Architectural Conservation Areas
 - Speed Limit Bye-laws review
 - Bike Share Scheme

Minute No. 35/23

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

Housing

Cllr Kevin Meenan gave an update on the Housing SPC meeting which took place on 21st February 2023.

Items discussed included:

- A presentation of the Affordable Dwelling Purchase Scheme
- A presentation of Housing Capital Delivery Targets and the Accelerated Deliver Programme

Minute No. 36/23

Replacement member to Planning and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee

That Mr. Peter Dunne will replace Ms. Brenda Tuite as the Louth IFA nominee on the Planning and Infrastructure SPC.

Proposed by: Cllr Paula Butterly
Seconded by: Cllr John Reilly
And resolved

Minute No. 37/23

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

Details of proposed organisations to receive Members Community Grants were presented to the meeting.

Proposed by: Cllr John Sheridan
Seconded by: Cllr Sean Kelly
And resolved

Minute No. 38/23

Section 141 Reports 2023 - 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, Cllr. Marianne Butler provided verbal reports on the activities of Creative Spark and also on the activities of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB).

Cllr. Butler provided a comprehensive overview of Creative Spark board meetings, the regular agenda items and also some highlights from the year such as representing Louth at the Irish Public Bodies Pride of Place Awards. Cllr. Butler also provided a report on LMETB, including the work of its Board.

Joe McGuinness, Director of Services, reminded the members of their obligations under Section 141 of the Local Government Act, 2001. This item is to be kept on the agenda for future Council meetings.

Minute No. 39/23

Local Authority Home Loans 2023 for approval

Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services introduced this to the meeting. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has allocated €8,030,000 to Louth County Council under the Local Authority Home Loan scheme for new lending in 2023. This is a reserved function of the Council.

Proposed by: Cllr. Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Cllr. Sean Kelly

And resolved

That Louth County Council, through the provisions of Section 106 (7) of the Local Government Act, 2001, agrees to the drawdown of €8,030,000 from the Housing Finance Agency for the purpose of Home Loans under the Local Authority Home Loan Scheme for 2023 and subsequent years.

Minute No. 40/23

Local Community Development Committee Annual Report 2022 - Noted

In line with Section 128 (b) of the Local Government Act, 2001, the Local Community Development Committee submitted an Annual Report to the Local Authority for noting in respect of the performance of its functions for the calendar year of 2022.

Minute No. 41/23

Notice under Section 183 – Proposed disposal of Fee Simple for property at 5 Greenhills Villas, Drogheda, Co. Louth

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended it was agreed that the disposal of the property at 5 Greenhills Villas, Drogheda, Co. Louth shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution.

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith

Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Callan

And resolved

Minute No. 42/23

Notice under Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands at Demesne, Dundalk, Co. Louth

In accordance with S183(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended it was agreed that the disposal of the property at lands at Demesne, Dundalk, Co. Louth shall be carried out in accordance with the terms specified in the resolution.

Proposed by: Cllr. Paula Butterly

Seconded by: Cllr. Sean Kelly

And resolved

Minute No. 43/23

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Support Services

Members expressed frustration that Uisce Éireann has not facilitated site visits for members of Louth County Council. Clarity was sought around the reasons for this. Frustration was also aired at the general lack of responsiveness by Uisce Éireann to the members when seeking updates. Bernie Woods, Head of Finance, stated that site visits have happened in the past but that Louth County Council does not have the authority to allow site visits. Ms. Woods will write to Uisce Éireann to request a site visit.

Ms. Woods also reminded the meeting that all responsibility for water services will soon transition to Uisce Éireann and that the Council's role in the provision of water services will cease.

Strategic Economic Development

The Members commended Louth County Council for how the County was represented over St. Patrick's Day. The professionalism of the travelling party to New York was highlighted, as was the effort of Chief Fire Officer Eamon Woulfe and the Fire Service in getting the Merryweather Fire Engine ready for the Dundalk parade.

Updates were provided to Members on a number of matters such as:

- Sea Louth Seafood Trail
- Destination Towns
- Brigid 1500
- Development Contributions Scheme

Cllr. John Sheridan requested that the Council engage with parade organisers in future years to ensure that designated zones are provided for the neurodivergent population. Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, stated that guidance could be provided to organisers.

Placemaking & Physical Development

Members considered the report as issued and Catherine Duff, Director of Services and John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer responded to queries raised.

Updates were given on

- Litter Task Force
- Narrow Water Bridge
- Dundalk Transport Study
- Outdoor exercise equipment at Carlingford, Termonfeckin and Collon.
- Active Travel
- Housing Estate speed limit review

Cllr. Michelle Hall, Cllr. Kevin Callan and Cllr. James Byrne welcomed the turning of the sod at Northern Cross and commended the work of the Chief Executive and the Management Team. Cllr. Byrne stated that it was a proud achievement and that Louth County Council was the envy of other

Councils.

Significant discussion was had about the volume of car traffic outside schools. Catherine Duff, Director of Services, stated that she would contact the National Transport Authority about the possibility of learning from best practice solutions which have been put in place in other counties.

Ms. Duff also stated that she would discuss the fact that people are not aware that they don't need to pay for parking on a Bank Holiday with the relevant staff.

Organisational Development

Cllr. Marianne Butler thanked the County Vet, Garrett Shine and the staff in the Dog Pound for the work they are doing in rehoming animals.

Cllr. Antoin Watters praised the recent initiative between Vets and other agencies. Cllr. Reilly queried whether there were specific bye-laws requiring dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead when walking in the Cooley Mountains.

Social Development

Cllr. Pio Smith raised queries regarding the following:

- Bringing derelict units into use
- Bringing the Council's own vacant stock into use
- The requirement for temporary accommodation in addressing Homelessness

Cllr. Marianne Butler welcomed the Council's work in the provision of affordable housing and queried why the response rate to a recent Council survey was low. A discussion was had around this and Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, stated that the experience around the country was that when a scheme was finalized, there is an increase in interest.

Mr. Donnelly also stated that there would be a new Family Hub coming on-stream in the next few weeks.

Minute No. 44/23

Condolences

Members expressed sympathy to the family and friends of:

Paddy Hodgins the former Harbour Master at Port Oriel, Clogherhead

Minute No. 45/23

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Joanna Byrne

This Council calls on the Government to extend the ban on evictions until the end of the year; to expand the tenant in situ scheme for social and affordable cost rental tenants; and to use emergency planning and procurement powers to target vacant and derelict properties and new building technologies to deliver additional social and affordable homes above the targets for this year.

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Kevin Meenan
And resolved

Minute No. 46/23

Correspondence Noted

- Wicklow County Council 14th February 2023
- Sligo County Council 22nd February 2023
- Sligo County Council 22nd February 2023
- Sligo County Council 22nd February 2023
- Sligo County Council 22nd February 2023
- Sligo County Council 22nd February 2023
- Kerry County Council 23rd February 2023
- Cavan County Council 24th February 2023
- Cork County Council 27th February 2023
- Westmeath County Council 3rd March 2023

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

17 April 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Conor Keelan

Meeting Administrator:

Aida Quoney