



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, 15th May 2023, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

- Presiding:** Councillor, Andrea McKeivitt – Leas Chathaoirleach
- Members:** Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, Joanna Byrne, Kevin Callan, Edel Corrigan, Tom Cunningham, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Pearse McGeough, Paddy McQuillan, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, Declan Power, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, Tomás Sharkey, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore
- Apologies:** Councillors: Conor Keelan, Sean Kelly, Emma Coffey, James Byrne, Bernie Conlon
- Officials:** Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator
Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Brian Lynch, Acting Head of Finance
Catherine Duff, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Service
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Martina Sheeran, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Roisin McAuley, Financial Management Accountant
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer
Willie Walsh, Senior Executive Officer
Susan Deery, Administrative Officer

Minute No. 72/23

Minutes from meeting held on 16th January 2023

Proposed by Cllr Joanna Byrne
Seconded by Cllr Paula Butterly
And Approved

Minute No. 73/23

Matters Arising

Cllr Maeve Yore sought updates on the cost of the St. Patrick's Day trip to New York and also on whether correspondence had issued to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to the N2 road scheme. Mr. Thomas McEvoy informed Cllr Yore that the cost of the St. Patrick's day trip was currently being compiled and would be available for the June meeting. Ms. Catherine Duff stated that she would follow up the decision to write to TII.

Minute No. 74/23

Minutes of District Meetings – Noted

- Borough District of Drogheda 6th March 2023
- Municipal District of Ardee 6th April 2023

Minute No. 75/23

Minutes of Committee Meetings - Noted

- Placenames Committee 27th July 2022
- Placenames Committee 22nd November 2022
- Placenames Committee 13th March 2023
- Corporate Policy Group Meeting 5th April 2023

Minute No. 76/23

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

As the Chairperson of the CPG was not in attendance at this meeting, this item was deferred to the June meeting.

Minute No. 77/23

Report from Chairpersons of Strategic Policy Committees

Planning and Support Infrastructure

Cllr. John Reilly delivered a report on the meeting of the Planning and Support Infrastructure SPC which took place on 2nd March 2023. Cllr. Reilly updated the meeting on recent membership changes on the SPC and also discussed the matters addressed at the above meeting. These included the Drogheda and Dundalk Local Area Plans, cycle lands, bicycle hire, commons rights, electric vehicles policy and by-laws for on-street bicycle hire.

Minute No. 78/23

Casual Vacancy – Cllr. Maria Doyle

This matter was deferred.

Proposed by: Cllr Paula Butterly
Seconded by: Cllr Dolores Minogue
And resolved

Minute No. 79/23

Vacancy – Housing Strategic Policy Committee

This matter was deferred to the June meeting.

Minute No. 80/23

Vacancy – Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd

Cllr. Pio Smith was nominated to fill the vacancy left on Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurance Ltd by Cllr. Michelle Hall. Ratification of the nomination was:

Proposed by: Cllr. Emma Cutlip
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
And Resolved.

Minute No. 81/23

Approval of attendance at conferences

Proposed by: Cllr. Paula Butterly
Seconded by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
And resolved

Minute No. 82/23

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

Proposed by: Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by: Cllr. Pio Smith
And resolved

Minute No. 83/23

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. John Reilly

provided an update on the work of An Táin, Dundalk. Cllr Reilly's update was comprehensive and set out the various programmes and initiatives being undertaken by An Táin.

Minute No. 84/23

Business Improvement District Scheme – Submissions report - noted

Thomas McEvoy provided the meeting with a high-level overview of the scheme and also an update regarding the next steps.

Cllr. Yore spoke in support of the scheme and also highlighted the good work it is doing.

Minute No. 85/23

Arts Grants 2023 - Noted

The list of grants was introduced by Paddy Donnelly.

Minute No. 86/23

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Support Services

It was requested that a copy of the additional expenditure brought to the January County Council meeting by the Chief Executive would be re-circulated to members.

Strategic Economic Development

The following was discussed in relation to Strategic Economic Development:

- The names of landowners on the Residential Zoned Land Tax maps are redacted at the request of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Updates were sought on recruitment plans for particular posts
- A discussion was had on Section 254 license applications for broadband posts and the processes for same.

Placemaking & Physical Development

Members expressed thanks for the activities undertaken during Bike Week. Catherine Duff also noted the involvement of the Sports Partnership and the Road Safety Officer.

It was queried as to how the information learned from the Copenhagen study trip could be shared with a greater number of Councilors and it was agreed that a presentation would be given to a meeting of the Council.

Organisational Development

A discussion was had relating to a motion which Cllr. Maeve Yore had attempted to put on the agenda for the meeting. The Chief Executive stated that the motion was removed from the agenda

due to the legal advice received in relation to the matter. It was highlighted by the Chief Executive that the motion for this meeting differed from a motion which Cllr. Yore had withdrawn at the April meeting. There was a further discussion by the members in relation to the circumstances in which the motion had been withdrawn.

Councillors spoke of their general support and sympathy for victims of abuse.

The meeting was adjourned for five minutes by the leas-Cathaoirleach and on the resumption of the meeting it was agreed to move on with business on the **proposal of Cllr. Kevin Callan, seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly.**

Other matters discussed in relation to Organisational Development were:

- Gratitude was expressed for the success of the swimming pool in Ardee.
- The work on the electoral register was noted and all residents were encouraged to visit checktheregister.ie to ensure they were registered to vote and their details were correct.
- The upcoming Diversity and Inclusion training which will be attended by Councillors was welcomed.

Social Development

Significant discussion was had on Housing Adaption Grants, Mobility Aid Grants and Housing for Older People grants. Due to the volume of applications, these grants have been suspended. All HOPs grants have been completed and the Housing Department are working through the MAGS and HAGs. Paddy Donnelly informed the meeting that the LCC contribution towards these grants has been increased but the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage did not increase their funding to the level expected. Another application has been made for funding by LCC. On foot of a request from Cllr. Corrigan, Paddy Donnelly stated that staff in Housing are currently examining how statistics are presented in the hope that it can be easier to observe trends.

Minute No. 87/23

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Conor Keelan

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

This motion was deferred as Cllr. Keelan was not present.

Minute No. 88/23

Notice of Motion – Cllr. Conor Keelan

“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.”

This motion was deferred as Cllr. Keelan was not present.

Minute No. 89/23

Retirements of Catherine Duff and Paddy Donnelly

The members paid tribute to the careers of Directors of Services Paddy Donnelly and Catherine Duff who are both to retire imminently. Both were thanked by all for their public service and the significant contribution to County Louth. The CE noted that it was a sad day and that both had committed their lives to public service.

Minute No. 90/23

Condolences

Members expressed sympathy to Cllr. Emma Coffey and her family on the recent passing of her brother, Maurice Coffey.

Minute No. 91/23

Correspondence Noted

- Wexford County Council 19th April 2023
- Wicklow County Council 20th April 2023
- Uisce Eireann 25th April 2023

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date:

19th June 2023

Cathaoirleach:

Paula Sullerdy

Meeting Administrator:

Ara Quoney