



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, 18th November 2024, at 10:00a.m.

In Attendance:

- Presiding: Councillor, Kevin Callan – Cathaoirleach
- Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Paula Butterly, James Byrne, Joanna Byrne, Emma Coffey, Eric Donovan, Ciaran Fisher, Anne-Marie Ford, Michelle Hall, Sean Kelly, Sionainn McCann, Andrea McKevitt, Pearse McGeough, Shane McGuinness, Kevin Meenan, Fiona MhicConchoille, Dolores Minogue, Ejiro O'Hare-Stratton, Declan Power, John Reilly, John Sheridan, Pio Smith, Jim Tenanty, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore
- Apologies: Cllrs. Bernie Conlon, Robert Nash.
- Officials: Joe McGuinness, Temporary Chief Executive
Ger Murphy, Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Bernie Woods, Director of Finance
David Hanratty, A/Director of Services
Bryan Coughlan, Meeting Administrator
Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
John O'Hagan, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
Colette Moss, Senior Executive Officer

Minute No. 293/24

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 8th October 2024

Proposed by Cllr. Sean Kelly
Seconded by Cllr. Joanna Byrne
And Approved

Minute No. 294/24

Minutes of Monthly County Council meeting held on 21st October 2024

Proposed by Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by Cllr. Shane McGuinness

Minute No. 295/24

Matters Arising

Updates were requested on the painting of parking bays and the Ardee Bypass by Cllrs. Maeve Yore and Dolores Minogue respectively.

Minute No. 296/24

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 4th, 6th and 7th November 2024

The Temporary Chief Executive spoke to caution Members that these minutes were extensive and to urge detailed consideration before approval.

Proposed by: Cllr. Antoin Watters
Seconded by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
And Approved

Minute No. 297/24

Minutes of District Meetings – for noting

- Municipal District of Ardee Monthly Meeting – 3rd October 2024
- Borough District of Drogheda
- Borough District of Drogheda Special Meeting - 21st October 2024
- Municipal District of Ardee Special Meeting - 21st October 2024

Minute No. 298/24

Minutes of Committees – for noting

- Corporate Policy Group – 9th October 2024

Minute No. 299/24

Report from Chairperson of Corporate Policy Group

A report was delivered, by the Chairperson of the Corporate Policy Group Cllr. Kevin Callan, on proceedings from the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 6th November 2024, and also on proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Corporate Policy Group held on 14th.

Minute No. 300/24

Approval of attendance at conferences

Proposed by: Cllr. Emma Coffey
Seconded by: Cllr. Andrea McKeivitt
And resolved

Minute No. 301/24

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

The list as put to the meeting was

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
And resolved

Minute No. 302/24

SPC Scheme 2024 - 2029

The proposed Strategic Policy Committee membership (Councillors only) was

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
And resolved

Minute No. 303/24

Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan

Thomas McEvoy summarised the process to date and advised that there was one CE recommendation outstanding which had been deferred previously and that following this a vote would be taken to adopt the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan as recommended in the Chief Executive's Report (published 8th October 2024) and as amended by the Members at its special meetings held 4th, 6th and 7th November and any proposed amendments arising at today's Council meeting. Adoption of same would require 15 votes in favour, i.e. not less than half the Members of the Planning authority, as per Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

The following submissions were considered:

Submission 37: Vivienne Quinn
Submission 41: Pat Meade
Submission 59: Ciara Clarke
Submission 71: Noel Fleming
Submission 73: Paul Mellon
Submission 131: Paula Mullen
Submission 145: Marianne Butler
Submission 151: Seán and Theresa Byrne

Joanna Kelly provided an overview of the key issues in each submission.

Councillor Emma Coffey declared a Conflict of Interest, due to having lodged an objection relating to this submission and absented herself from the discussion and the vote.

Cllr. Dolores Minogue proposed going into Committee to clarify a previous decision, which was seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan. In line with Standing Orders, this required the agreement of at least half the members present and following a roll call vote, the outcome was:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly				1
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			1 (withdrew)
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher				1
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	23	0	0	6

And it was resolved that the Council meeting would enter Committee.

When the Council entered Committee, Councillor Minogue noted that the decision that she wished to discuss was relating to a different submission and the Council exited Committee.

Joanna Kelly informed the Members that there is a planning application for this site lodged with An Bord Pleanála but that there has been no decision forthcoming.

Following significant discussions regarding what action the Members can take at Material Alteration stage, a roll call vote took place **to accept the Chief Executive's recommendation for submission 37, 41, 59, 71, 73, 131, 145, 151.** The results of the roll call vote were as follows:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly				1
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey				1 (withdrew)
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher				1
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly				1
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	23	0	0	6

And Resolved.

Minute No. 304/24

Amendments to Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan

Cllr. Dolores Minogue proposed going into Committee to clarify a previous decision, which was seconded by Cllr. Kevin Callan. In line with Standing Orders, this required the agreement of at least half the members present and following a roll call vote, the outcome was:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly				1
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford	1			

Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness				1 (withdrew)
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	24	0	0	5

And it was resolved that the Council meeting would enter Committee.

Upon exiting Committee, the Members considered the Draft Dundalk Local Area Plan and voted to accept the Chief Executive's report for the draft Dundalk Local Area Plan with amendments. Adoption of same would require 15 votes in favour, i.e. not less than half the Members of the Planning authority, as per Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Following a roll-call vote, the outcome was as set out below:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler	1			
Paula Butterly				1
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			

John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	25	0	0	4

And Resolved.

Minute No. 305/24

Section 183 – Proposed disposal of DYD Building, Westgate, Drogheda to Culture Connect CLG by way of 25 year lease.

David Hanratty set out the proposed disposal which was **proposed by** Cllr. Maeve Yore and **seconded by** Cllr. Kevin Callan.

Cllr. Michell Hall dissented against the disposal and stated that it was her belief that Culture Connect should be registered with the Charities Regulator. It was confirmed to Cllr. Hall that the property was not advertised for expressions of interest. Cllr. Pio Smith also dissented against the disposal. Cllr. Emma Coffey stated that in her opinion Not-for-Profits may not necessarily meet the requirement of being a charity, but that Culture Connect were in-line with the requirements of a Not-for-Profit organisation. Cllrs. Kevin Meenan and James Byrne also spoke to support the disposal.

As there were two members dissenting, a roll call vote was called to approve the disposal, the result of which was:

Councillor	For	Against	Abstain	Absent
Marianne Butler			1	
Paula Butterly				1
James Byrne	1			
Joanna Byrne	1			
Kevin Callan	1			
Emma Coffey	1			
Bernie Conlon				1
Eric Donovan	1			
Ciaran Fisher	1			
Anne-Marie Ford			1	
Michelle Hall		1		
Sean Kelly	1			
Sionainn McCann	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Shane McGuinness	1			
Andrea McKeivitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Fiona MhicConchoille	1			
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Ejiro O'Hare Stratton	1			
Declan Power	1			
John Reilly	1			
John Sheridan	1			
Pio Smith		1		

Jim Tenanty	1			
Antoin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	21	2	2	4

And Resolved.

Minute No. 306/24

Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands at Greenore Road, Carlingford

Approval of the disposal of lands (0.12379 hectares) at Greenore Road, Carlingford to Padraig McCann was

Proposed by: Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne
And resolved

Minute No. 307/24

Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands at 18 St. Mary’s Villas, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Approval of the disposal of fee simple of property (0.0603 hectares) at 18 St. Mary’s Villas, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Aidan McGrory was

Proposed by: Cllr. Pio Smith
Seconded by: Cllr. James Byrne

Minute No. 308/24

Section 183 – Proposed disposal of lands at 1 Fairgreen, Drogheda, Co. Louth

Approval of the disposal of fee simple of property (0.049673 hectares) at 1 Fairgreen, Drogheda, Co. Louth to Olive Murtagh was

Proposed by: Cllr. Joanna Byrne
Seconded by: Cllr. Michelle Hall

Minute No. 309/24

Consideration of Reports and Recommendations from Chief Executives Monthly Management Report

Support Services

There was significant discussion regarding Uisce Eireann. The Temporary Chief Executive advised Members that the Executive were continuing to engage with Uisce Eireann at a senior level and that the dialogue was positive. Several Members spoke to highlight their concern with Uisce Eireann’s plans for Louth and of their dissatisfaction with the meeting Councillors had with Uisce Eireann on 21st October 2024.

Strategic Economic Development

The following was discussed in relation to Strategic Economic Development:

- Cllr. Pio Smith congratulated the Council and Drogheda BIDs on the success of the Lú Festival
- In response to a query from Cllr. Maeve Yore, it was confirmed that the “Look for Louth” campaign is now live.
- There are rolling recruitment campaigns ongoing in the Retained Fire Service.
- Issues with Broadband coverage in Ardee were raised by Cllr. Dolores Minogue.

Placemaking & Physical Development

The following was discussed in relation to Placemaking and Physical Development

- In response to a query from Cllr. John Sheridan, it was confirmed that Dunleer Fire Station will now be progressing following the clarification of certain matters with the vendors.
- Responses to people who made submissions regarding the Greenway in Cooley will be issued in January.
- An implementation plan is currently being agreed by An Taisce regarding Safe Routes to Schools projects.
- It was noted, in response to the concerns raised by Cllr. Declan Power, that the Council would follow-up on any road safety interventions that are not working.
- There is a small, rolling programme of bridge maintenance and bridges have been identified for funding. However, the amount of available funding is small.
- A regional project has commenced which is seeking to accelerate the installation of EV chargers.

Organisational Development

The matters discussed in relation to Organisational Development were:

- CCTV guidelines have been issued nationally and are currently being localised for implementation next year.
- The Dundalk Running Track will be put to tender before the end of the year.
- All involved in the 5 Ways to Wellbeing Conference were commended by Cllr. Kevin Meenan.

Social Development

The following was discussed in relation to Social Development:

- Cllr. Kevin Meenan queried whether there was a procedure in place for dealing with HAP recipients who leave properties damaged. In response, Ger Murphy confirmed that such cases should be referred to the Rental Tenancies Board and that it is a matter between the tenant and the landlord.
- Any defects regarding concrete blocks are a matter for the Building Control unit who will look into it.
- In response to Cllr. AnneMarie Ford, it was clarified by Ger Murphy that matters relating to child protection are primarily the responsibility of Tusla.

Minute No. 310/24

Suspension of Stading Orders

On the **proposal** of Cllr. Kevin Callan, **seconded by** Cllr. Joanna Byrne, Standing Orders were suspended to allow the presentation by Drogheda Port.

Minute No. 311/24

Presentation by Drogheda Port

The Chairman, Gerard Deegan, and Chief Executive, Paul Fleming, of Drogheda Port Company (DPC) at the outset clarified the circumstances surrounding their withdrawal from the October monthly meeting. They subsequently proceeded to provide a detailed presentation which set out recent milestones, investment plans, community related activities and an account of how the Hebble Sand is being dealt with.

At the close of the presentation, the Cathaoirleach stated that he wished to clarify several matters raised relating to the Hebble Sand, namely:

- That he did not receive correspondence relating to the Hebble Sand
- That he never received an 'open invite' to meet with DPC regarding the Hebble Sand as had been stated in the presentation
- That the Borough District of Drogheda had sought a meeting with DPC for 12 months and that it had not been facilitated.

In concluding these remarks, the Cathaoirleach stated that the Hebble Sand was a matter of serious public concern.

Cllr. Pio Smith spoke in support of the Cathaoirleach's words and stated that the correspondences received from DPC were not satisfactory and that he would have expected a more meaningful engagement. While Cllr. Joanna Byrne commended DPC for their community projects, she stated that a lot of damage was done to their relationship with the community due to the Hebble Sand and added that she had not received an invite to a meeting from DPC.

Cllr. Michelle Hall spoke to confirm that as Mayor of the Borough District of Drogheda she had met DPC who assured her that they would meet the Council on the Hebble Sand issue.

In response to this, there was debate between the Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive of DPC regarding the issue around communication and correspondence. The Chair of DPC spoke to re-affirm that Councillors were invited to a more in-depth discussion with DPC but did acknowledge that the original intended date of 20th November 2024 may be too soon. Before the close of the meeting, the Chair set out that DPC wanted to be seen as committed to the Community and that perhaps they do not fly the flag of their community work well enough.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

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

Date: 16/12/24

Cathaoirleach: Heini Pallu

Meeting Administrator: 