



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

Louth County Council Special Meeting

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Louth County Council hosted online over MS Teams on Wednesday, 3rd April 2024, at 4:00p.m.

In Attendance:

Presiding: Cathaoirleach: Councillor Paula Butterly

Members: Councillors: Marianne Butler, Joanna Byrne, Bernie Conlon, Edel Corrigan, Emma Cutlip, Michelle Hall, Seán Kelly, Conor Keelan, Pearse McGeough, Andrea McKeivitt, Kevin Meenan, Dolores Minogue, John Reilly, Liam Reilly, John Sheridan, Tomás Sharkey, Pío Smith, Antóin Watters, Maeve Yore

Apologies: Councillors: James Byrne, Kevin Callan, Emma Coffey, Tom Cunningham, Paddy McQuillan, Robert Nash, Declan Power, Jim Tenanty, Eileen Tully

Officials: Joan Martin, Chief Executive
Joe McGuinness, Director of Services
Gráinne Tuomey, Meeting Administrator
Bernie Woods, Director of Services
Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Yvonne O'Brien, A/Director of Services
David Jones, Director of Services
Ger Murphy, Director of Services

Minute No. 61/24

Introduction

The Meetings Administrator, Gráinne Tuomey reminded Members of etiquette around online meetings and carried out a roll call to establish the quorum had been met.

An Cathaoirleach Cllr Paula Butterly welcomed everyone, thanked them for their attendance and commenced the meeting.

Minute No. 62/24

Notice of Motion - Cllr. Maeve Yore
Seconded by Cllr Bernie Conlon

That All current elected representatives and Election Candidates will adhere to the voluntary

code of practice (from Tidy Town Groups) not to erect election posters for Local elections in 2024 and forthcoming election campaigns across Co Louth and agree a prime location across each Municipal & Borough District to display 1 poster per candidate to show commitment to the environment "

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Matter for the Members.

Members expression opposition to the motion, Cllr Sheridan questioned the legality of the motion and along with other members questioned the fairness towards new unknown candidates.

A roll call vote was called in favour of Cllr Yore's proposal 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
Bernie Conlon	1			
Edel Corrigan		1		
Tom Cunningham				1
Emma Cutlip		1		
Michelle Hall		1		
Conor Keelan				1
Sean Kelly		1		
Pearse McGeough		1		
Andrea McKevitt		1		
Paddy McQuillan				1
Kevin Meenan		1		
Dolores Minogue		1		
Robert Nash				1
Declan Power				1
John Reilly		1		
Liam Reilly		1		
Tomás Sharkey				1
John Sheridan		1		
Pio Smith		1		
Jim Tenanty				1
Eileen Tully				1
Antóin Watters		1		
Maeve Yore	1			
	2	16	0	11

And the Motion was quashed.

Minute No. 63/24

Notice of Motion . Cllr. John Reilly
Seconded by Cllr Dolores Minogue

“That Louth County Council use all available resources to assist with the cooperation of Uisce Eireann to have all septic tanks systems connected to mains sewerage in the urban area of Dundalk on environmental grounds”.

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

“The connection of private dwellings to the public sewer system is a matter between Uisce Eireann and the homeowner. Louth County Council has no role in this. Louth County Council, where necessary, enforce owners to ensure their septic tank is operating correctly and not causing environmental concerns. We monitor and regulate domestic wastewater treatment systems across the county in accordance with EPA guidelines, (National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 – 2026).

The EPA has not identified the urban area of Dundalk as a high-risk area in this context.”

Several members spoke in support of this motion, with Cllr Reilly clarifying that the motion was not to seek funding from Louth County Council towards costs of mains connections but for Louth County Council to use any influence possible for the provision of infrastructure to support such connections.

Minute No. 64/24

Notice of Motion - Cllr Conor Keelan
Seconded by Cllr John Sheridan

“That this Council reaffirms its support to the Good Friday Agreement as voted in by the elected suffrage of men and women in an All-Ireland vote held in 1998 which paved the way for changes in Bunreacht na hÉireann to the constitutional status of this island, the re-establishment of Power-Sharing in Stormont, albeit for the first time, the creation of Cross-Border Bodies and recognition of Rialtas Na hÉireann as a co-guaranteur of the Good Friday Agreement.

That this motion be sent to each local authority, each local authority with a partnership/SLA with a cross-border county council area in the Ulster region and partnership organisations such as EBR and the North-South Ministerial Council for comment.”

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Matter for the Members

Cllr Keelan spoke on this motion which saw support from some members.

Minute No. 65/24

Notice of Motion Cllr. Marianne Butler
Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

That Louth County Council calls on the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to extend the Temporary Development Contribution Waiver Scheme from the present 24th April 2024 cut off date for commencing permitted residential development by at

least six months and also adding a corresponding six month extension for those permitted residential developments to be completed. If the motion is successful that with write to the Minister for Housing Local Government and Heritage requesting that he extends this waiver scheme.

Reply: T. McEvoy, Director of Services, Strategic Economic Development

Matter for the Members

Members spoke in support of this motion, with a request for an ongoing social media campaign to advertise the current requirements to commence onsite by the 24th of April made

Minute No. 66/24

Notice of Motion Cllr James Byrne – Absent so not heard

"That Louth County Council enhances the way it seeks the views of the public with respect to future public consultations by placing a new emphasis on the inclusion of post primary students in the process".

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

The Council will adhere to the statutory provisions of Public Consultations and have no plans to go beyond those requirements.

Minute No. 67/24

Notice of Motion Cllr Conor Keelan
Seconded by Cllr Edel Corrigan

"That LCC commits after the 2024 Local Elections to commence and conduct a much-needed review of the effectiveness of the LCC Dog-Fouling bye-laws and enforcement of same in light of the public health issue of toxocarasis and the prevalence of dog-faeces in urban areas in particular.

Examination should be made of disposable receptacles currently in use in Carlingford provided by Carlingford TT and campaigns available in other counties such as:

<https://www.cavancoco.ie/sevices/environment-climate-change/litter-management/dog-fouling/>

<https://monaghan.ie/environment/dog-control/> and <https://www.tipperarycoco.ie/anti-dog-fouling-awareness> "

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

This is a matter that should be referred to the appropriate Strategic Policy Committee for their review and consideration.

Members spoke in support of this motion.

Minute No. 68/24

Notice of Motion Cllr Tomás Sharkey
Seconded by Cllr Conor Keelan

"This Council affirms the standing orders of the Council.

*This Council affirms the procedure as set out in standing orders to deal with situations where members or officials are requested to withdraw and/or apologise for comments.
This Council affirms that the Cathaoirleach of Louth County Council is required to uphold and follow standing orders as adopted."*

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

This is a matter for the Members.

A lengthy discussion took place on this motion. In accordance with Standing Order 16(ii)(b) an amendment was proposed by Cllr John Reilly 'to leave out words and insert other words' so the last line of the motion read as follows:

"This Council affirms that all Members of Louth County Council are required to uphold and follow standing orders as adopted."

This was seconded by Cllr Pio Smith, and following some further discussion, a roll call vote held as follows on the amendment:

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			
Edel Corrigan	1			
Tom Cunningham				1
Emma Cutlip	1			
Michelle Hall	1			
Conor Keelan			1	
Sean Kelly	1			
Pearse McGeough	1			
Andrea McKevitt	1			
Paddy McQuillan				1
Kevin Meenan	1			
Dolores Minogue	1			
Robert Nash				1
Declan Power				1
John Reilly	1			
Liam Reilly	1			
Tomás Sharkey	1			
John Sheridan				1
Pio Smith	1			
Jim Tenanty				1
Eileen Tully				1

Antóin Watters	1			
Maeve Yore	1			
	17	0	1	11

And the amended motion was resolved.

Minute No. 69/24

Notice of Motion Cllr Pío Smith
Seconded by Cllr Emma Cutlip

'Asking that Louth County Council immediately stop all present and future planning applications for wind farms and associated works until legal advice is obtained to clarify if the draft wind energy guidelines 2019 supersede the older guidelines'.

Reply: Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services, Strategic Economic Development

The draft wind energy guidelines 2019 are considered "draft" and as such where an application for an on-shore wind farm is made the relevant guidelines are considered to be the Wind Energy Development Guidelines, 2006. There is no mechanism to "stop" an application once it is made to the planning authority as the legislation clearly sets out statutory timelines for assessing applications.

Cllr Smith while accepting the executive response referred to a recent court ruling made in the absence of guidelines. A short discussion took place with the Chief Executive advising that planners look at case law and can request legal advice where appropriate.

Minute No. 70/24

Notice of Motion Cllr John Sheridan - absent not heard

"De réir miontuairiscí 84/20, go faigheann baill an Comhairle nuashonrú ar obair Comhairle Chondae Lú maidir le comhlíonadh rialacháin de chuid Acht an dTeangacha Oifigiúil 2003

As per minute 84/20, that members receive an update on the ongoing work of Louth County Council to comply with regulations of the Official Languages Act 2003"

Reply: J. McGuinness, Director of Services, Organisational Development

Is féidir liom a dheimhniú go bhfuil Comhairle Contae Lú ag leanúint ar aghaidh le comhlíonadh Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla a chur chun cinn agus dul i mbun idirchaidrimh leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga ar aon ábhar a d'fhéadfaí a chur os ár gcomhair.

Mar shampla, cuireadh conradh le seirbhís aistriúcháin le déanaí tríd an Oifig um Sholáthar Rialtais (OGP) agus tá obair ag dul ar aghaidh le haistriúchán doiciméad, láithreán gréasáin agus fógraí poiblí/fógraí.

I can confirm that Louth County Council continue to progress compliance with the Official Languages Act and liaise with An Comisinear Teanga on any matters which may be brought to our attention.

For example, a recent translation service has been contracted via the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) and work is progressing with the translation of documents, website and public notices/advertisements.

Minute No. 71/24

(taken out of sequence of agenda)

Notice of Motion Cllr Emma Cutlip
Seconded by Cllr Pio Smith

This council recognizes that a primary objective of the Port Access Northern Crossroute (PANCR) is to alleviate traffic congestion moving through the town to gain access to the port. This council is aware of large volumes of commercial and heavy goods traffic utilizing local roads at great repair cost to the council - in particular the continued high volumes of heavy goods vehicle usage of the R152 Platin Road, R108 Duleek Street & Mary Street which cause significant damage to the road surface and present traffic congestion and road safety concerns.

Therefore, this council will develop a comprehensive strategic plan for road repair, traffic management, road safety, and traffic routing and calming, on all main routes into Drogheda and in particular the R152 and R108 and other routes relative to each phase of PANCR completion, for implementation on completion of each phase of the PANCR, and present it to the members for consultation and adoption.

Reply: D. Jones, Director of Services, Placemaking & Physical Development

The full Port Access Northern Cross Route (PANCR) project runs from the R132 Rosehall roundabout terminating at a proposed roundabout on the Baltray Road, encompassing proposed roundabouts and road upgrades on the Twenties land, Ballymakenny road, Aston Village and Termonfeckin road.

The scheme will be transformative for the movement of people and traffic within Drogheda Northern Environs, Drogheda town centre and also Drogheda Port, removing vehicle traffic particularly on the north side of the Boyne, which is currently hindered by existing bridge crossing, the Boyne river and rail line.

Along with a fully developed PANCR, the current main arteries for transport into Drogheda are the regional roads, R132 (old Dublin -Dundalk road), R166 Termonfeckin road, R167 Baltray road, R168 Collon road, R108 Beamore Road, R152 Platin Road, R150 and thereafter the Donore road, Marsh road and to an extent the Rathmullen Road. These roads should be maintained as arteries in order to prevent traffic using lesser classed roads or residential areas.

The Drogheda Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) is currently being developed, which will inform the Local Area Plan (LAP), will provide high level options for the future movement of people in Drogheda including bus routes, active travel measures, Heavy Good Vehicle bans and one-way systems, for consideration.

A discussion took place on this item with a focus ultimately developing on pot hole repair request and response. Members were advised by the Chief Executive of a current review on machinery taking place.

Minute No. 72/24

Condolences

Condolences were offered for the family and friends of the late Philip O'Brien, former staff of Louth County Council

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

Date: 15 April 2024

Cathaoirleach: Paula Buckley

Meeting Administrator: Cinaíona